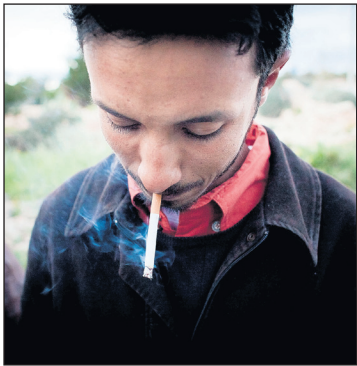


INSIDE TODAY

UP FRONT

Tunisian men at center of tensions



A Tunisian immigrant awaiting transfer to mainland Europe smokes a cigarette outside an immigrant processing outpost on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, Italy.

By STEVEN ERLANGER

© 2011 New York Times
VENTIMIGLIA, Italy – In the American Bar, across the square from the train station here, they have had enough.

Page A2

Plane with Michelle Obama aborts landing



By MATTHEW L. WALD

© 2011 New York Times
WASHINGTON – An Air Force passenger jet carrying Michelle Obama to Andrews Air Force Base early Monday evening had to abort its landing.

Read Next Page



Castro Bypasses Brother

Cubans during ceremonies in Havana marking the 50th anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion, Saturday, April 16, 2011. President Raul Castro of Cuba, in a speech on Saturday before the 6th Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, heralded a battery of changes including a proposal that politicians be limited to two five-year terms in an effort to rejuvenate a political system dominated by aging loyalists of the revolution.

(Jose Goitia/The New York Times)

Cuba lays foundation for a post-Castro leader

RANDAL C. ARCHIBOLD

© 2011 New York Times

HAVANA – Cuba on Tuesday made the most significant change to its leadership since the 1959 revolution, naming



Fidel Castro at a meeting of Cuba's Communist Party Congress in Havana, on April 19, 2011. Castro's brother, Raul, was elected to replace Fidel as the party's first secretary, a role he had held since the 1959 revolution.

(The New York Times)

someone other than the Castro brothers for the first time to fill the second-highest position in the Communist Party and possibly setting the stage for their eventual successor.

The appointment, at the party's first congress in 14 years, coincided with a blizzard of changes opening the way for more private enterprise. Taken together, the actions were meant to pull the revolution, at 53, out of a midlife crisis that has led to a sinking economy and, even in the estimation of President Raul Castro, stagnant thinking.

But Castro, for all his talk about the need to rejuvenate the system, in the end stuck with the old guard, many of them fellow military officers, for now.

"The rebel army is the soul of

the revolution," he said, quoting Fidel Castro, his brother.

The new No. 2 is not the young up-and-comer that Raul Castro, 79, had hinted he might select to guide a post-Castro era. Instead, he tapped a party stalwart, Jose Ramon Machado, 80, who fought at his side in the mountains during the rebellion.

Castro did, however, name several people younger than 70 to the central committee and three to the 15-member Politburo, including the architect of the current round of economic changes, possibly grooming them for bigger roles.

Castro acknowledged that his generation had lagged in preparing young leaders, saying Cuba lacked "a reserve of substitutes with the sufficient

maturity and experience to take over the principal duties of the country." □

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Plane with Mrs. Obama aborts landing

By MATTHEW L. WALD

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WASHINGTON — An Air Force passenger jet carrying Michelle Obama to Andrews Air Force Base early Monday evening had to abort its landing and circle the field because it was following too closely on the tail of a giant military cargo plane arriving ahead of it, the Federal Aviation Administration said Tuesday.

The plane carrying the first lady, a military version of a Boeing 737, was three miles behind the C-17 but was supposed to be five miles behind, because of the possibility of encountering turbulence from the cargo plane's wake. The planes were too close because of an error by a civilian air traffic controller at a low-altitude control center in Virginia, according to a government official involved in following up the incident. But the official described the event as "routine."

The controller in Virginia, handing the approaching plane off to the control of controllers in the tower at Andrews, at first misstated the distance separating the two planes, saying that they were four miles apart when in fact the gap had closed to three miles, the official said.

To try to spread the planes apart, controllers ordered the plane carrying Obama to maneuver in broad turns like the letter S, as one skier would do to avoid coming up on another too quickly from behind.

But that was not enough, and the controllers in the tower at Andrews ultimately ordered the Boeing to "go around" because they were concerned that the cargo jet would not have time to touch down, decelerate and exit the runway on a taxiway before the passenger plane crossed the runway threshold. □



Michael Bromwich, right, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, walks with aide Melissa Schwartz through the University of San Diego campus, during a recruiting tour. Working as a lawyer it took a call from President Obama to convince Bromwich to lead the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

(Sandy Huffaker/The New York Times)

Answering a call to serve, slowly

By JOHN M. BRODER

© 2011 New York Times

The night the BP well blew, Michael R. Bromwich was in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands minding his own business, which in this case was monitoring compliance with a consent decree between the Department of Justice and the islands' police force, which had a history of poor training and complaints about excessive use of force.

Bromwich, a lawyer in private practice in Washington and New York, is a former federal prosecutor, Justice Department inspector general and an experienced troubleshooter for agencies in crisis.

He paid scant attention to the rig explosion and the ensuing spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Offshore oil drilling, he said, was "not really on my radar."

Not until a White House lawyer called in early June to sound him out about taking charge of the disgraced Minerals Management Service, the Interior Department office responsible for regulating deepwater drilling, which was being replaced with a wholly new agency called the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

"I said, 'Really? Me?'" Bromwich, 57, recalled. He stalled for days, hoping the offer would go away. "I woke up nauseous at the idea of it," he said.

Then one day, the phone rang again, and the voice on the other end said, "Mike, this is Barack." President Barack Obama announced his appointment four days later, setting in motion as intense a 10-month period as Bromwich said he has ever seen as he sought to remake the agency. □

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TUNISIAN MEN

Continued from Front Page

"The Tunisians are everywhere," the waitress said. "It's been like this for a month. They sleep in the station and on the streets, and we've lost a lot of customers."

Mara Scasso, an emergency room nurse, said she had never seen so many police officers in this western edge of Italy, on the French border. "Helping the refugees is a moral duty," she said. "But here we have one of the highest unemployment rates in Italy; it's a dead zone. I don't see how we can help them."

Thirty yards away, about 70 young Tunisian men sat around the lip of a dry fountain in Piazza Battisti, drinking coffee, asking for money and giving interviews. Some of them have been sent between Italy and France several times, and the police and immigration officers carefully monitor the trains and stations on the Riviera tourist route between Nice, Menton and Ventimiglia, stopping every young man who looks Tunisian. These young men — there are no women — are a kind of Ping-Pong ball in a French-Italian political soap opera: economic migrants from a newly free but chaotic Tunisia who have dared the seas to find opportunity in a European Union that does not want them.

Italy has started issuing temporary six-month residence permits to Tunisians who arrived before April 5, saying that European Union rules under the Schengen treaty, which allows passport-free travel, would let them travel into France and elsewhere. The French are turning many of them back if they lack other documentation or sufficient money, or if they simply cannot satisfactorily explain, at least to officials, the nature and duration of their visit. As a French policeman in the Nice train station said of the permits, "The Italians have created a beautiful stupidity." But the Italians feel put upon, given their proximity to Tunisia and the arrival of some 25,700 Tunisian refugees this year, and they are worried about an even larger influx from Libya. □

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1st offshore U.S. wind farming expected soon

BOSTON— After years of delay, construction of what is expected to be the first U.S. offshore wind farm, located off Massachusetts' picturesque Nantucket Sound, could begin as early as this fall.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said on Tuesday the federal government has approved a construction and operations plan submitted for the Cape Wind Energy Project.

"The department has taken extraordinary steps to fully evaluate Cape Wind's potential impacts on environmental and cultural resources of Nantucket Sound," Salazar said during a visit to Boston.

Michael Bromwich, director of the Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, said the environmental impact of the project had been reviewed thoroughly.

The project, which is being developed by Energy Management Inc, calls for 130 wind turbine generators, each with a maximum blade height of 440 feet, to be arranged in a grid pattern several miles off



A man enters the General Electric building at 1250 Avenue of the Americas, also known as 30 Rockefeller Plaza in New York

shore. German conglomerate Siemens AG will provide the turbines. Construction could begin as early as the fall, the Interior Department said.

The site is tucked between the mainland of the cape and the islands of Martha's Vineyard, an exclusive vacation destination, and Nantucket island.

Once fully operational, the wind farm will produce enough electricity to power about 400,000 homes on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

Cape Wind has faced opposition involving everyone from Indian tribes to fishermen to the Kennedy family, whose 6-acre family compound in Hyannis Port overlooks Nantucket Sound.

Massachusetts Rep. Edward Markey praised Tuesday's developments.

"Let's get this wind project built and keep this American clean energy momentum pushing us ahead like a down-east breeze," Markey said in a statement. □

Towns still recovering from storms

More tornadoes predicted



Half of a home completely destroyed on Medlar Lane in Raleigh, North Carolina.

NEW YORK — Sweeping storms threatening to unleash thunder, hail and tornadoes were expected to strike the Midwest and South on Tuesday, including towns still staggering from last week's deadly weather, forecasters said.

Extreme weather was expected to dump 6 to 12 inches of snow on Wisconsin, according to AccuWeather.com.

From Chicago south, severe thunderstorm warnings were underway, with some of the direst predictions for St. Louis, where "ping-pong sized hail" was expected, Accuweather.com meteorologists said.

Later in the day and overnight, powerful storms with

lightning strikes, gusting winds and driving downpours were expected to unfold from the central Plains through the mid-Mississippi Valley, pushing east to the Ohio and Tennessee valley region.

"Once again we will be dealing with a triple threat of tornadoes, damaging winds and large hail,"

said forecasters on Weather.com. Some of the twisters could touch down in the very same communities slammed by tornadoes last week, meteorologist Bill Deger said in a statement on AccuWeather.com. At least 45 people were killed across the southern United States, the highest storm death toll in more than three years. □



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FAA suspends controller for watching movie on duty

By JOAN LOWY
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON – An air traffic controller has been suspended for watching a movie when he was supposed to be monitoring aircraft, deepening the Federal Aviation Administration's embarrassment following at least five cases of controllers sleeping on the job.

In the latest incident, the controller was watching a movie on a DVD player early Sunday morning while on duty at a regional radar center in Oberlin, Ohio, near Cleveland that handles high-altitude air traffic, the FAA said in a statement Monday.

The controller's microphone was inadvertently activated, transmitting the audio of the movie the 2007 crime thriller "Cleaner," starring Samuel L. Jackson for more than three minutes to all the planes in the airspace that the controller was supposed to be monitoring, the agency said.

The controller's microphone became stuck in the transmit position, preventing him from hearing incoming radio calls or issuing instructions to planes during the incident, the agency said.

The controller was alerted to the mishap when he was contacted by a military pilot.

Besides the controller, the



FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt meets with Atlanta-based air traffic controllers to discuss new rules governing schedules in the hopes of reducing incidents of sleeping on the job Monday at the Atlanta TRACON in Peachtree City

FAA also has suspended a manager at the Oberlin center. In all, the FAA has suspended nine controllers and supervisors since late March.

In five of the cases the controllers allegedly fell asleep. In another case, the FAA is investigating why two controllers in Lubbock, Texas, were unresponsive to radio calls.

Nearly all the incidents occurred during overnight shifts

when traffic is light and people naturally have trouble staying awake.

The incidents have shaken FAA officials, made air traffic controllers the butt of late-night comedians and raised public jitters about the safety of air travel.

FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt said early Monday, before the agency had disclosed the incident near Cleveland, that he was "infuriated" that air traffic controllers have been caught snoozing on the job.

"None of us in this business can tolerate any of this," Babbitt said. "It absolutely has to stop."

Babbitt was at a regional radar center near Atlanta with Paul Rinaldi, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, the union that represents controllers. The pair met with about 50 controllers and other FAA

employees as they kicked off a nationwide tour of air traffic facilities aimed at sending a message as much to the public as to controllers that unprofessional behavior won't be tolerated.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood underscored the same message in a series of television interviews over the past several days. Even President Barack Obama joined the chorus, telling ABC News last week, "We've got it under control."

But every time administration officials say they've moved decisively to contain the problem, another controller steps over the line.

The day before the Cleveland incident a controller fell asleep while working an overnight shift at busy regional radar facility in Miami that handles high-altitude traffic for Florida, parts of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean. □

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Governor vetoes birther, campus gun bills



U.S. President Barack Obama greets Arizona Governor Jan Brewer after stepping off Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona.

By David Schwartz
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona's Republican Governor Jan Brewer on Monday vetoed

two controversial bills, one mandating proof of U.S. citizenship to run for president, the other allowing guns on college campuses, in a clear

setback for conservatives who control the state legislature.

Brewer, who grabbed headlines a year ago when she signed a get-tough state law cracking down on illegal immigrants, vetoed the bills in an announcement late on Monday.

The so-called "birther bill," would have made Arizona the first state in the nation to require presidential candidates prove U.S. citizenship by providing a long form birth certificate, and other forms of proof including baptismal or circumcision certificates, to be placed on the state ballot.

"I never imagined being presented with a bill that could require candidates for president of the greatest and most powerful nation on earth to submit their 'early baptism or circumcision certificates'." This is a bridge too far," she said.

A former Arizona secretary of state, Brewer said she did

not support designating one person as "gatekeeper to the ballot for a candidate," as it "could lead to arbitrary or politically motivated decisions." The Republican-controlled

state legislature passed the measure at a time when some foes of President Barack Obama, a Democrat question whether he is a native-born U.S. citizen. □

Arizona 'Baseline Killer' trial starts

By AMANDA LEE
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Carmen Miranda was vacuuming her car and talking on her cell phone when a man dubbed the Baseline Killer shot her in the head, shoved her body in the back seat and lodged her legs over her head with her pants pulled down.

The Phoenix woman would be the last victim connected to a string of eight other killings in 2005 and 2006. Now, the man accused of being the Baseline Killer is set to go on



trial for murder.

Jury selection is set to begin Tuesday in the case against Mark Goudeau, whose trial is expected to last about nine

months.

The crimes started in August 2005 and ended with Miranda's death on June 29, 2006, in what police described as a "blitz attack" of the mother of two at a Phoenix car wash. The dead, eight of them women, ranged from 19 to 39 years old. They were killed going about their daily activities, leaving work, waiting at a bus stop or washing a car.

Police said they have forensic evidence, including DNA and ballistics, tying Goudeau to the killings. □

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McDonald's grimaces at Happy Meal lawsuit

By Dan Levine
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – A lawsuit seeking to stop McDonald's Corp from offering toys with Happy Meals must be dismissed because parents can always choose not to buy the meals for their children, the hamburger giant said in a court filing late on Monday. The lawsuit accuses McDon-

ald's of unfairly using toys to lure children into its restaurants. The plaintiff, Monet Parham, a Sacramento, California mother of two, charges that the company's advertising violates California consumer protection laws.

The Happy Meal has been a huge hit for McDonald's making the company one of the

world's largest toy distributors and spawning me-too offerings at most other fast-food chains. One recent and very successful Happy Meal promotion was a tie-in with the popular DreamWorks Animation film "Shrek Forever After." The meals included toy watches fashioned after the movie's characters Shrek, Donkey, Gingy and Puss in Boots. McDonald's use of Happy Meal toys also has come under fire from public health officials, parents and lawmakers who are frustrated with rising childhood obesity rates and weak anti-obesity efforts from restaurant operators, which are largely self-regulated. Parham, who filed suit last December, is represented by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a nutrition advocacy group.

In the lawsuit, Parham admits she frequently tells her children "no" when they ask for Happy Meals, McDonald's said in Monday's court filing.



Two McDonald's Happy Meal with toy watches fashioned after the characters Donkey and Puss in Boots from the movie "Shrek Forever After" are pictured in Los Angeles.

"She was not misled by any advertising, nor did she rely on any information from McDonald's," said the company. McDonald's had the suit moved to federal court, but the plaintiff plans to fight to get the case back before a California state judge. Should Parham's lawsuit be

allowed, it would spawn a host of other problematic legal proceedings, McDonald's said.

"In short, advertising to children any product that a child asks for but the parent does not want to buy would constitute an unfair trade practice," the company said. □

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Lawsuit over content of Taco Bell beef dropped

By Jonathan Stempel
Associated Press

NEW YORK – The lawsuit over the content of Taco Bell's "seasoned beef" has ground to a halt.

A California woman who sued to force Taco Bell Corp to stop calling the filling for many of its tacos and burritos "seasoned beef" because it had too little beef to be labeled as such has voluntarily dismissed her lawsuit.

Taco Bell, a unit of Yum Brands Inc, said no money had changed hands and that it was not changing its products, ingredients or advertising.

Monday's dismissal came after Taco Bell launched what



A patron tries to enter a closed Taco Bell restaurant on Island avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

its chief executive officer, Greg Creed, in an interview called a \$3 million to \$4 mil-

lion nationwide advertising campaign to combat negative publicity from the January lawsuit.

The plaintiff, Amanda Obney, contended the beef taco filling contained less than 50 percent beef and that Taco Bell's own suppliers euphemistically called it "taco meat filling."

But Taco Bell countered that the filling is actually 88 percent beef and 12 percent "signature recipe."

"We gave them the facts, which we could have given them three months ago before this was filed, and when they saw the facts they withdrew the lawsuit," Creed said in the interview. "It's that simple." □



Marriott Care Foundation donates 2,000 florins to Trampolin



“Trampolin pa Trabao” ready for arts and crafts



PALM BEACH — Recently the Marriott Care Foundation donated 2,000 florin to Trampolin pa Trabao, a nonprofit foundation for persons with special needs. Trampolin pa Trabao provides afternoon arts and crafts classes to members of the Sonrisa foundation. The arts & crafts classes allow them to be creative, interactive and have fun in the afternoons. With the donation from Marriott's Care, Trampolin purchased arts and crafts materials which will last for an entire year. On Friday April 15th, Ms. Esthel Nicolaas, president of Trampoline was pleased to share with Marriott's Care members Ricardo Vrolijk, Suzette Hoftijzer and Elvis Gomez all the materials purchased. Members Cody Arends, Enrique Mathilda and Franklin Mathilda showed the Easter crafts they made and were excited to work with the brand new equipment and colorful material. To show their gratitude the Trampolin members gave Marriott Care members a pre- Easter gift.

The Marriott Care Foundation was founded in 1999 by the associates of the Aruba Marriott and has been actively contributing to the local community for the past nine years. The foundation embodies a living and breathing sentiment and “Spirit to Serve” within associates who fund the Foundation through direct financial contributions. The Marriott Care Foundation supports local initiatives to better the community and reaches out to those in need, showing that together we can help create a healthier living environment for all. Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. □

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Fresh asparagus flown in from Holland



In the picture: Theo Wouters (left) from DeliCaribbean is handing over the first fresh Dutch asparagus of the season to Chef Bas Kuurstra of Papillon Restaurant.

PALM BEACH Gold is up for grabs at Papillon Restaurant in The Village. The amaz-

ing restaurant will be among the first to present the White Gold, the honorary nickname for new white asparagus. The asparagus has a pearly white color when it is dug up from the soil and its stalks are thick at the bottom, tapering to a lovely yellow at the top. The masterful touch of Papillon's chef will reveal its elegant potential and its amazing taste. Time to book a table and go for the gold! The asparagus have been flown in by KLM and have been hand delivered to chef Bas Kuurstra by Theo Wouters from DeliCaribbean. There are some terrific choices for asparagus lovers this year. These include a creamy velouté with strips of smoked salmon, the classic favorite with melted butter, a boiled egg, ham or smoked salmon and new potatoes, rack of New Zealand lamb in a herb crust with a thyme sauce, new potatoes, seared filet of Helibut filet in a white wine sauce or stewed asparagus with cinnamon, Belgian chocolate ice cream, a ginger snap, whipped cream and a caramel sauce. □

Celebrate Easter with delicious specials



PALM BEACH - The Bistro in the Paseo Herencia Mall is expecting you to show up at Easter for its delicious Easter specials. The terrace restaurant in the inner circle of the mall is absolutely perfect for celebrations, and Easter is of course one of the most important religious holidays of the year. Time to come to The Bistro!

On Easter Sunday the options are a traditional fish soup with freshly caught grouper, shrimps and garden vegetables in a tomato-flavored fish bouillon — or garlic mussels with mixed garden greens.

Entrée options are Bistro-style chicken, which entails a boneless chicken breast, pan-fried in butter and topped with bacon bits and mushrooms and served with mashed potatoes and a side salad. Or choose the combination fish platter, where grouper and pan-fried garlic mahi mahi vie for top honors; they are served with a lobster sauce and fresh vegetables, mashed potatoes and a side salad. An apple sherbet and melon liqueur, served in a martini glass can be your Paseo Delight dessert. Come to The Bistro for Easter and delight your palate. □

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Celebrate Easter in Island style!



PALM BEACH -Here on the island for Easter vacation? There is no better way to enjoy both Easter dinner and the freshest seafood, than at the island's oft-praised and top seafood restaurant, Aqua Grill in Palm Beach.

Award-winning Executive Chef Scott Scheuerman has

created a special Easter Sunday menu for the occasion, with a three-course dinner priced at a reasonable \$45 per person (plus 15% service charge and tax) with a variety of choices to please all appetites. A children's menu is also available for the younger ones in the group.

The dinner begins with a choice between four different appetizers (hint: the Chesapeake crab cake and the seared tuna are guest favorites), the main course options -there are 6 to choose from-include fresh local catches (like grouper and yellow fin tuna), as well as scallops, sea bass, or a center-



cut USDA sirloin for the non-seafood eaters in the group. For the sweetest of endings (there are 4 to choose from), Chef Scott only prepares fresh, from-scratch desserts,

like cheesecake or a decadent fudge brownie. Aqua Grill also features live Maine lobster, the island's largest raw bar, and a "Wine Spectator" award for their wine list. □

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Bruce & Sharon Sommers honored at the Divi Village Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Divi Village Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the

Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title.

The recent honoring were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi Village Resort, they call their home away from

home. Bruce & Sharon Sommers were honored as Distinguished Visitors for the Island of Aruba after visiting for more than 18 years .

Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with Bruce & Sharon and also Hilda & Griffith from the Divi Village Resort. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced

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he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday



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Syria government approves lifting state of emergency



People perform prayers during a demonstration in the Syrian city of Homs

By Khaled Yacoub Oweis
Associated Press

AMMAN — Syria's government passed a draft law on Tuesday to lift 48 years of emergency rule, a concession to unprecedented demands for greater freedom in the tightly-controlled Arab country. But protests continued after the announcement, with demonstrators taking to the streets in the city of Baniyas and opposition leaders said they would not stop until their other demands, including the release of political prisoners, freedom of speech, and a multi-party system, were also met. State news agency SANA said the cabinet ratified draft legislation, which must still be signed by President Bashar al-Assad, "to end the state of emergency in Syria." Inspired by uprisings sweeping the Arab world, thousands of Syrians have demonstrated across the country demanding reforms, presenting Assad with the most serious and sustained challenge to his 11-

year rule. Rights groups say more than 200 people have been killed in the unrest. The cabinet, which has little power and rubber-stamps Assad's orders, also passed a law to abolish a special security court which human rights lawyers says violates the rule of law and the right to fair trial. It also passed legislation to "regulate the right of peaceful protest." Permission from the Interior Ministry will be needed to demonstrate in Syria, the news agency said. One activist dismissed the cabinet decision, saying Assad himself could have lifted emergency law immediately. "The government doesn't need to issue anything ... It's in the hands of the president to lift it," Ammar Qurabi said. "This (announcement) is all just talk. The protests won't stop until all the demands are met or the regime is gone," leading opposition figure Haitham Maleh, an 80-year-old former judge, told AP.

Britain described the cabinet decision as a "step forward" but said Assad had "still has much more to do to meet the legitimate aspirations of the people of this country." "We repeat the call for deaths to be avoided, for people to

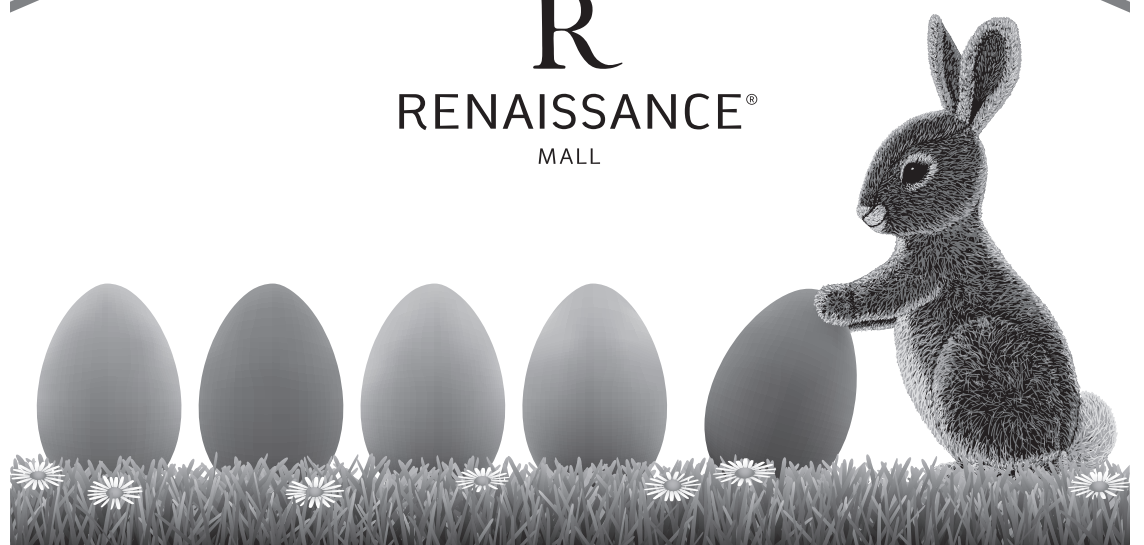
have the right to peaceful protest, for deaths that have already occurred to be fully investigated," Foreign Secretary William Hague told Sky News. The cabinet decision came hours after activists said Syr-

ian forces opened fire to disperse protesters in Homs, where 17 people were killed on Sunday night. Rights activists said at least three more protesters were shot dead in the latest shooting early on Tuesday. □

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Obama

Cutting Ethanol subsidies perilous move for Farm state politicians



Mark Whittington
Associated Press

COMMENTARY -- Casting about for ways to save money, Republican lawmakers have hit upon ethanol subsidies. Even some farm state senators, such as Dan Coats of Indiana and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, suggest that it is time for the subsidies to go. The case for ending ethanol subsidies is buttressed by a report from the General Accounting Office that suggests that the industry tax credit is duplicative and unnecessary. Sen. Coburn points out that subsidizing ethanol diverts corn from the food market, both directly and as feed for livestock, thus artificially inflating the price of food. Ending the subsidy would force

ethanol producers to pay more in taxes and give a \$4 billion boost to the federal budget, helping to close the yawning deficit.

On the other hand, farmers and ethanol industry officials will fight bitterly to retain the subsidy. Iowa, a corn growing state, is the venue of the first caucus of the 2012 primary season. Republican presidential candidates will support ending the subsidy at their peril. Newt Gingrich and Tim Pawlenty are supporters of the subsidy, for example.

Certainly farm state Democrats will erupt, claiming the Republicans want to hurt farmers and do other horrible things. President Obama will claim that the Republicans are in the pay of the evil oil com-

panies that get tax benefits and subsidies of their own. Offering to end those subsidies, perhaps in exchange for opening up new areas in the United States, including ANWR and off the coast, to oil production might neuter that line of attack, however.

One thing on the side of ending the ethanol subsidy is that it will expire at the end of 2011 unless Congress votes to extend it. So deficit cutters in Congress will not have to overcome opposition, especially in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

One argument for continuing to support ethanol, that it is environmentally benign, was disproved by a study in 2007. The study, disputed by supporters of ethanol, suggests that burning ethanol mixed with gasoline raises the ozone level in the Earth's atmosphere. As a result, 200 more people per year die of respiratory illnesses.

As for cutting imports of oil, the counter argument can be made the boosting domestic production of oil and gas would be a far more cost effective means of doing so than, in effect, burning food in our gas tanks. □

Is Donald Trump actually serious about 2012?



Donald Trump

New York -- The Donald is making it look like he really does intend to run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012. Could he really mean it this time?

Donald Trump has a history of making loud noises about running for president, only to quiet down after a beneficial flood of publicity. But this year could be different, say Maggie Haberman and Ben Smith at Politico. Trump actually "appears likely to launch a formal presidential campaign, hire staff, shake hands in Iowa, participate in debates in short, run for president." NBC, which broadcasts Trump's *Celebrity Apprentice*, isn't buying it. But with his money, name recognition, and recent strength in the polls, some Republicans are taking the real estate mogul seriously. Is Trump taking this whole presidential run

thing seriously, too?

The Republican establishment thinks he's for real: Trump's political ascendance "has been as fast as its has been shocking," says Chris Cillizza in *The Washington Post*. And the surest sign that he's "gaining traction" is that other Republicans have started attacking him. Trump would be a "a deep-pocketed enemy," and now that he's making serious moves to compete, "the best case scenario for 2012 candidates not named Trump is that he loses interest in the race." "Attacking Donald Trump"

Trump is joking, intentionally or not: It doesn't really matter if Trump is serious, says Jonathan Chait in *The New Republic*. Maybe "his campaign is not a joke in the sense of Trump being in on it, but it is a joke in the sense that his entire career is a joke." Given his past support for Canadian-style health care, disdain for George W. Bush, and kind words for President Obama, he could only be the GOP nominee in a world where the Republican Party as we know it "ceases to exist."

Don't underestimate his appeal: Nobody but Trump knows how serious he is about running, says Scott Paul at Politico. □



Tara M. Clapper
Associated Press

COMMENTARY -- Some might find it odd that I'm a Passover celebrant considering I'm not Jewish. As a Celtic Universalist Pagan, I believe in a higher power and appreciate religious celebrations of

many faiths.

Since I did not grow up in a Jewish home, Passover isn't something I celebrated during childhood. Over the years, Jewish friends have welcomed me into their homes during Passover and other Jewish holidays. This tradi-

Passover Seder

A Universalist's Celebration of Passover

tion of openness and inclusion without evangelism has made Passover something for me to look forward to whenever I receive such an invitation.

This year, I was invited to attend a Passover Seder with my husband (who is Christian). I learned a lot and enjoyed a delicious meal and plan to prepare and serve Passover foods in future years because of what the holiday represents, and also because the meal is so delicious.

The Food

My family celebrates the major Christian holidays, so I'm accustomed to having savory entrees and tasty treats for dessert. Food and how people

consume it says a lot about a culture or religious community. I can't help but adore the sense of camaraderie come St. Patrick's Day.

I'm Irish-American year round, but I enjoy the opportunity to share my culture and learn more about it on my favorite holiday of the year; food and drink is a major part of that.

Since I don't eat pork, I usually feel comfortable and included when I'm eating in a Jewish home, particularly on holidays. People who keep kosher or maintain other dietary restrictions also tend to be more tolerant of my own food choices.

My first experience with traditionally Jewish food (aside from breads one might find in a bakery) involved eating matzah, or unleavened bread. I thought it tasted like rice cakes only better, so as a kid I was hooked.

My second experience involved hamentaschen, delicious cookies made for the lesser-known Jewish holiday Purim. After some collegiate flirtations with Manischewitz (wine), it was easy for me to accept an invitation to a Passover Seder hosted by friends. Food is a wonderful way to create a sense of community regardless of the occasion. Symbolism □

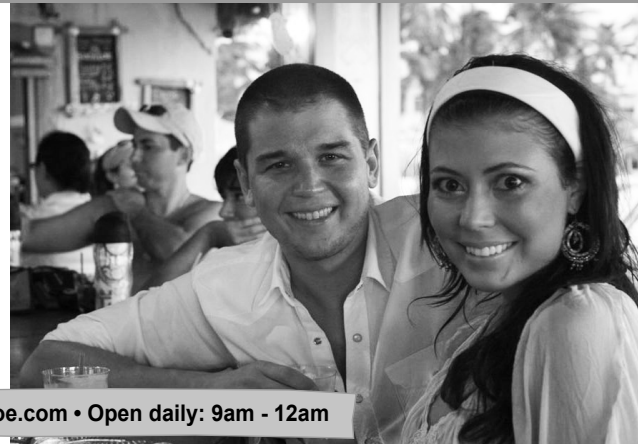


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Members of Hamas' security forces hold back Palestinians reacting after the coffin of Italian activist Vittorio Arrigoni was taken out of al-Shifa hospital in Gaza City

Suspects in activist killing die in raid

By Nidal al-Mughrabi

Associated Press

GAZA — Two main suspects in the killing of a pro-Palestinian Italian activist died Tuesday and a third was captured during a raid by Hamas security forces trying to detain the fugitives, the Hamas-run Interior Ministry said.

Hamas said one of the dead militants, a Jordanian, had shot himself after throwing a grenade that had killed the second when the Hamas forces stormed the building where they had been hiding in the central Gaza Strip.

Three members of the Hamas security forces were also wounded in the battle to capture the al Qaeda-inspired militants who were behind Vittorio Arrigoni's killing last week.

The group had abducted Arrigoni Thursday and threatened to execute him unless their leader, detained by Hamas last month, was freed. Arrigoni was found strangled Friday.

Three other members of the group were arrested in the raid, though they were not the main suspects in Arrigoni's death. His killing triggered outrage among Palestinians in Gaza and posed an unprecedented challenge to Hamas. Hamas security forces had surrounded the building earlier in the day. An attempt to negotiate the surrender of the fugitives had failed. □

Britain sending military advisers to Libya

by Danny Kemp

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain said Tuesday it is sending military advisers to help organise Libyan rebels, even as western powers denied they could soon break their taboo against putting foreign boots on the ground.

The announcement came as France strongly warned against sending any coalition troops into Libya, where a two-month revolt against Moamer Kadhafi's regime has stalled and civilian casualties are mounting.

Foreign Secretary William Hague insisted the addition of about 12 military advisers to Britain's diplomatic team in the rebel stronghold of Benghazi did not breach a UN resolution authorising air strikes against Kadhafi's forces.

"They're not boots on the ground, this is not British ground combat forces going in. There is going to be no ground invasion of Libya," Hague told BBC television.

Hague said the British advisers would not arm or train the



A rebel fighter stands on the burned out carcass of a tank at an army base captured the day before in the fought-over district of Kerzaz in the city of Misrata. Britain said Tuesday it is sending military advisers to help organise Libyan rebels, even as western powers denied they could soon break their taboo against putting foreign boots on the ground

rebels, but would help them develop organisational structures, communications and logistics and coordinating humanitarian aid and medical supplies.

"They're people with the expertise in those sorts of things. They're not there, I stress, to train fighting forces, to arm fighting forces or of course to take part in any fighting themselves," he added.

The rebels "clearly lack that organisational experience and, yes, we do think that with that experience they will be able to save lives, in Ajdabiya, perhaps in Misrata," he said.

With thousands clamouring to escape the besieged rebel city of Misrata, Britain said it would charter ships to pick up 5,000 migrant workers after a ferry rescued nearly 1,000 on Monday. □

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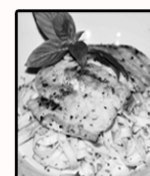
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Bodies in streets after Nigeria election riots



Nigeria's incumbent president Goodluck Jonathan casts his ballot in his home village of Otuoke, Bayelsa state,

By Joe Brock
and Mike Oboh
Associated Press

KANO, Nigeria – Medics in northern Nigeria on Tuesday treated hundreds of victims

of rioting against President Goodluck Jonathan's election victory, some of them children with gunshot and machete wounds.

The Red Cross said many people were killed, hundreds injured and thousands displaced in protests across northern Nigeria on Monday by supporters of Jonathan's northern rival, former army ruler Muhammadu Buhari, who say the election result was rigged.

Churches, mosques, homes and shops were razed.

Hospitals in the cities of Kano and Kaduna in the predominantly Muslim north were overflowing with wounded.

"We're full. We've got injuries ranging from battering,

machete wounds and around five gunshot victims," said Ibrahim Gwarze, a doctor in the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital.

"We had a young boy, 7 years old, with a gunshot wound to the stomach," he said.

Soldiers patrolled near empty streets. There were still pockets of violence, including in rural areas of Zamfara, Kaduna and Katsina states, where there was less of a military presence.

The Red Cross said eight people had been confirmed dead in Katsina and rescue workers gave similar figures for other cities, but the overall toll was feared to be much higher.

The risk of renewed violence prevented aid workers from getting to the worst-hit neighborhoods.

Two charred bodies lay in the street in the Tudun Wada area of Kaduna, one with "no more PDP" written in chalk beside it. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) is Jonathan's ruling party.

Burned tyres lay in side streets for block after block. Soldiers manned checkpoints every

few hundred meters. The injured spilled onto the street outside an army hospital, several with bloodied bandages around their heads.

Christian residents who fled to military and police barracks in Kano to shelter during the unrest blamed Buhari, whose Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) party has refused to accept results which say Jonathan won Saturday's election.

"How can he allege rigging. Jonathan won across the nation. They should accept the results rather than killing and destroying people and property," said Olaoye Ade, who fled with his wife and children to a police barracks in Kano.

"I am here with my family in the barracks instead of celebrating the nation's new-found democracy."

Buhari described the violence perpetrated in his name as sad and unfortunate, but stopped short of a clear call for calm.

"This dastardly act is not initiated by any of our supporters and therefore can not be supported by our party," he said in a statement. □



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Yemen police kill 3 as protests escalate



Anti-government protesters shout slogans during a rally to demand the ouster of Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh outside Sanaa University

By Mohammed Ghobari and Khaled al-Mahdy
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — Yemeni police opened fire on protesters in Sanaa and Taiz on Tuesday, killing at least three people, as protesters tried to escalate their campaign to end President Ali Abdullah Saleh's 32-year rule.

The clashes came as Gulf mediators tried to bring government and opposition leaders together for talks on a presidential transfer of power in the poor, strategically located Arab state, a key battleground in the U.S.-led fight against al Qaeda.

Two people died and nearly 100 were hit by bullets when riot police stopped protesters marching toward Sanaa's

main Zubeiri street, near the home of vice president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, medic Mohammed Qobati said.

Protesters stoned the riot police and set fire to a security vehicle, witnesses said. Al Jazeera television showed medics tending to dozens of wounded covered in blood.

The demonstrators have so far mainly been confined to an area around Sanaa University, where they have been camped out since February to press for political reform, while Saleh supporters have often gathered in other parts of the city. At least one person was shot dead and another wounded in Taiz, south of Sanaa, as protesters across the country tested security forces' limits after three months of demon-

strations demanding Saleh's ouster. Police opened fire in Taiz when protesters burned tyres in the street.

The U.N. Security Council was due to meet late in the day to discuss the situation in Yemen, where Western and Gulf Arab allies fear a prolonged standoff could lead to clashes between rival military units in Sanaa and elsewhere.

"They (protesters) are resorting to these tactics to try and escalate the situation because they feel like their demands are not being met," said Mohammed al-Mohammed, a protester in Taiz.

Protesters shouted orders to salute soldiers who belonged to a battalion loyal to General Ali Mohsen, who has sent troops to protect demonstrators in Sanaa, as they marched past an army post manned by his troops.

Protesters in Sanaa and the Red Sea port of Hudeida have tried to march outside their traditional protest zones in recent days, prompting clashes with police who sought to pen them back.

Both Western and Gulf Arab allies have tried without success to broker a resolution involving a transition of power from Saleh, who has led the Arabian Peninsula state for 32 years. □

Japan eyes sales tax rise to pay for post-quake rebuild



Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan speaks in front of empty chairs during a budget committee at the upper house of parliament in Tokyo

By Linda Sieg and Kazunori Takada
Associated Press

TOKYO— Japanese consumers may have to help foot the reconstruction bill after last month's earthquake and tsunami caused \$300 billion of damage, further burdening the hugely indebted economy, a newspaper said on Tuesday. It would be the first increase since 1997, though a sales tax hike had been the subject of fierce political debate before the earthquake struck as one way for Japan to dig itself out of its massive debt.

The government is considering raising the tax by 3 percentage points to 8 percent

when the new fiscal year starts next April, the Yomiuri newspaper reported.

"It was clear even before this disaster and the need to secure funds for reconstruction that to ensure a sustainable fiscal situation, some sort of reform of spending and revenues was necessary," said Internal Affairs Minister Yoshiro Kata-yama.

"The debate over the fiscal situation is not something that began with this disaster," he told reporters.

The government hopes to avoid issuing new bonds to fund an initial emergency budget, expected to be worth about 4 trillion yen due to be compiled this month.

But bond issuance is likely for subsequent extra budgets which will only make it harder for Japan to rein in its debt, already running at twice the size of the \$5 trillion economy. The mood among consumers about the prospects for jobs and incomes darkened in March after the quake, a Cabinet Office survey showed.

Though the triple disasters of quake, tsunami and nuclear crisis are bad news for the Japanese economy, the damage is not expected to spill over across the region. □

Why Trump Soars



By **DAVID BROOKS**

© 2011 New York Times

Very few people have the luxury of being freely obnoxious. Most people have to watch what they say for fear of offending their bosses and colleagues. Others resist saying anything that might make them unpopular.

But, in every society, there are a few rare souls who rise above subservience, insecurity and concern. Each morning they take their own abrasive urges out for parade. They are so im-

pressed by their achievements, so often reminded of their own obvious rightness, that every stray thought and synaptic ripple comes bursting out of their mouth fortified by impregnable certitude. When they have achieved this status they have entered the realm of Upper Blowhardia.

These supremely accomplished blowhards offend some but also arouse intense loyalty in others. Their followers enjoy the brassiness of it all. They live vicariously through their hero's assertiveness. They delight in hearing those obnoxious things that others are only permitted to think.

Thus, there has always been a fan base for the abrasive rich man. There has always been a market for books by people like George Steinbrenner, Ross Perot, Bill O'Reilly, Rush Limbaugh, Bobby Knight, Howard Stern and George Soros. There has always been a large clump of voters who believe that America could reverse its decline if only a straight-talking, obnoxious blowhard would take control.

And today, apparently, Donald Trump is that man. Trump, currently most famous for telling people that they are fired, has surged toward the top of the presidential primary polls. In one poll, he was in (remote) striking distance in a head-to-head against President Barack Obama. Many people regard Trump as a joke and his popularity a disgrace. But he is actually riding a deep public fantasy – the hunger for the ultimate blowhard who can lead us through dark times.

He is riding something else: the strongest and most subversive ideology in America today. Donald Trump is the living, walking personification of the Gospel of Success.

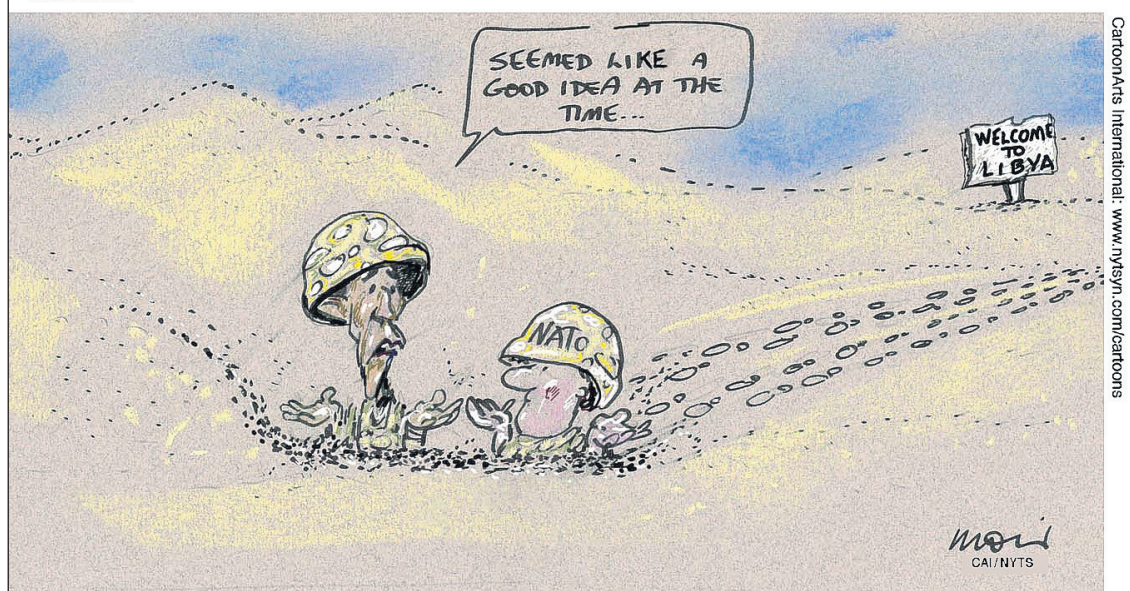
It is obligatory these days in a polite society to have a complicated attitude toward success. If you attend a prestigious college or professional school, you are supposed to struggle tirelessly for success while denying that you have much interest in it. If you do achieve it, you are expected to shroud your wealth in locally grown produce, understated luxury cars and nubby fabrics. Trump, on the other hand, is utterly oblivious to such conventions. When it comes to success, as in so many other things, he is the perpetual boy. He is the enthusiastic adventurer thrilled to have acquired a gleaming new bike, and doubly thrilled to be showing it off.

He labors under the belief – unacceptable in polite society – that two is better than one and that four is better than two. If he can afford a car, a flashy one is better than a boring one. In private jets, lavish is better than dull. In skyscrapers, brass is better than brick, and gold is better than brass.

This boyish enthusiasm for glory has propelled him to enormous accomplishment. He has literally changed the landscape of New York City, Chicago, Las Vegas and many places in between. He has survived a ruinous crash and come back stronger than ever.

Moreover, he shares this unambivalent attitude toward success with millions around the country. Though he cannot possibly need the money, he spends his days proselytizing the Gospel of Success through Trump University, his motivational speeches, his TV shows and relentlessly flowing books. □

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Letting The Banks Off The Hook



By **JOE NOCERA**

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Judging by last week's performance, it sure looks as though the country's top bank regulator is back to its old tricks. Though, to be honest, calling the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency a "regulator" is almost laughable. The Environmental Protection Agency is a regulator. The OCC is a coddler, a protector, an outright enabler of the institutions it oversees.

Back during the subprime bubble, for instance, it was so eager to please its "clients" – yes, that's how OCC executives used to describe the banks – that it steamrolled anyone who tried to stop lending abuses. States and cities around the country would pass laws requiring consumer-friendly measures such as mandatory counseling for subprime borrowers, or the listing of the fees the banks were going to charge for the loan. The OCC would then use its power to either block or roll back the legislation.

It relied on the doctrine of pre-emption, which holds,

in essence, that federal rules pre-empt state laws. More than 20 times, states and municipalities passed laws aimed at making subprime loans less predatory; every time, the OCC ruled that national banks were exempt. Which, of course, rendered the new laws moot.

You'd think the financial crisis would have knocked some sense into the agency, exposing the awful consequences of its regulatory negligence. But you would be wrong. Like the banks themselves, the OCC seems to have forgotten that the financial crisis ever took place. It has consistently defended the Too Big to Fail banks. It opposes lowering hidden interchange fees for debit cards, even though such a move is mandated by law, because the banks don't want to take the financial hit. Its foot-dragging in implementing the new Dodd-Frank laws stands in sharp contrast to, say, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, which is working diligently to create a regulatory framework for derivatives, despite Republican opposition. Like the banks, it views the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as the enemy. And, as we learned last week, it is doing its darnedest to make sure the banks escape the foreclosure crisis – a crisis they created with their sloppy, callous and often illegal practices – with no serious consequences. There is really no other way to explain the "settlement" it announced last week with

14 of the biggest mortgage servicers (which includes all the big banks). The proposed terms call on servicers to have a single point of contact for homeowners with troubled mortgages. They would have to stop the odious practice of secretly beginning foreclosure proceedings while supposedly working on a mortgage modification. They would have to hire consultants to do spot-checks to see if people were foreclosed on improperly. (Gee, I wonder how that's going to turn out?)

If you're thinking that's what they should have done in the first place, you're right. If you're wondering what the consequences will be if the banks don't abide by the terms, the answer is: There aren't any. And although the OCC says that it might add a financial penalty, I'll believe it when I see it. While John Walsh, the acting comptroller, called the terms "tough," they're anything but.

No, the real reason the OCC raced to come up with its weak settlement proposal is that last month, a document surfaced that contained a rather different set of terms with the banks. These were settlement ideas being batted around by the states' attorneys general, who have been investigating the foreclosure crisis since late October. The document suggested that the attorneys general were not only trying to fix the foreclosure process but also wanted to penalize the banks for their illegal actions. □

SPORTS Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Marathon legend dies at 57



In a Nov. 3, 1994 file photo nine-time winner of the New York City Marathon Grete Waitz adjusts her wreath during a 25th anniversary reunion of past winners of the race in New York. Waitz died Tuesday April 19, 2011 after a six-year battle with cancer, Norway's athletics federation said. She was 57.

(AP Photo/Marty Lederhandler)

By NILS MYKLEBOST,
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Grete Waitz had never run a marathon before the New York City race in October 1978. After it, her name and New York would be forever linked.

The lean Norwegian middle-distance runner, who had set two world-records in the 3,000 meters, was invited to the race as a “rabbit,” someone brought in to set a fast early pace for the favorite runners.

Two-thirds through that first marathon, she suffered so hard that she cursed her husband, Jack Waitz, for talking her into it.

“I was hurting. I was mad. I was angry. I told Jack: ‘Never again!’” she recalled in 2008, 30 years later.

But in all that rage she found strength. Not only did she win the race, she set a world record — the first of three.

Continued on Page B2



CELTICS TAKES OVER NICKS
Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett (5) steals the ball from New York Knicks forward Jared Jeffries, right, in the final minute of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, in Boston on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. The Celtics won 96-93.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Next Page

Brewers beat Halladay, Phillies

By ROB MAADDI,
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Randy Wolf pitched six crisp innings, Ryan Braun and Casey McGehee homered and the Milwaukee Brewers beat Roy Halladay and the Philadelphia Phillies 9-0 Tuesday night. The Brewers became the first team to win a series against the NL East-leading Phillies this season. They'll try to complete a three-game sweep on Wednesday afternoon when Cliff Lee takes the mound for Philadelphia.

Wolf (2-2) allowed two hits, struck out five and walked three against his former team. The left-hander was Philadelphia's ace in the early 2000s.

Jimmy Rollins had a bunt single in the first and Shane Victorino hit a double in the third for the Phillies' only hits of the game. Sean Green, Zach Braddock and Mike McClendon each pitched an inning after Wolf left.

Halladay (2-1) gave up six runs and 10 hits in 6 2-3 innings. It was the worst start for the reigning NL Cy Young Award winner since he allowed six runs in six innings in a loss at the New



Philadelphia Phillies' Carlos Ruiz rolls under Milwaukee Brewers second baseman Rickie Weeks during the fourth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 19, 2011, in Philadelphia. Ruiz was out at second on a ball hit by Wilson Valdez.

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

York Yankees last June 15.

Halladay tossed a complete game at Washington last Wednesday, needing 123 pitches to do it. He got an extra day rest because of a rainout, but still wasn't as sharp as usual. □



FILE -- In a Nov. 1, 1992, file photo Fred Lebow (60) and Grete Waitz (F39) cross the Pulaski Bridge on the border of the Brooklyn and Queens boroughs of New York during the New York City Marathon. Lebow, the creator and impresario of the Marathon has not run in the race for more than 20 years, while Waitz has won the marathon a record nine times. Waitz died Tuesday April 19, 2011 after a six-year battle with cancer, Norway's athletics federation said. She was 57.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon/file)

MARATHON LEGEND

Continued from Page B1

And "never again" turned into eight more wins in the New York Marathon, a world championship gold medal, an Olympic silver and a place among the greatest marathon runners of all time. Waitz died Tuesday at age 57 in a hospital in her native Oslo after a six-year battle with cancer. Her husband Jack was by her side, said Helle Aanesen, who co-founded a cancer foundation with Waitz. There was no word on what type of cancer felled the marathon legend, who disclosed no details about her condition after being diagnosed in 2005.

Setting a world record in her first marathon was revealing of Waitz's character. She always pushed boundaries for herself. And in doing so, she broke barriers for women in sports — perhaps more than she ever imagined.

"She was the first lady of the marathon. She was such a wonderful lady, such a wonderful ambassador for women's marathon running back when it was just starting to be recognized as a serious event," said Rob de Castella, a world champion marathon runner from Australia who had trained with Waitz.

At a time when many still felt that women didn't belong in long-distance running, Waitz proved them wrong with her outstanding performances. "It was Grete who proved that it was possible for women to compete in the longer distances," said Svein Arne Hansen, president of the Norwegian Athletics Federation.

Waitz won the marathon gold medal at the inaugural world championships in 1983. A year later in Los Angeles, she took second behind American Joan Benoit in the first women's Olympic marathon.

She won the London Marathon twice, in 1983 and '86, the Stockholm Marathon in 1988 and earned five titles at the world cross-country championships from 1978-81 and 1983. Her last victory in the New York Marathon came in 1988.

When at 37 she finished fourth in New York in 1990, no runner got more cheers from the crowd than Waitz, easily spotted by her graceful running style and blonde hair. She retired from competition after that but returned to the New York Marathon in 1992, crossing the finish line next to legendary race director Fred Lebow, who had been suffering from cancer and died two years later.

Waitz said that run with Lebow was the her most memorable New York Marathon next to her first win in 1978.

"She will be remembered as one of the best marathon runners of her time," International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said. Before becoming the world's top women's marathoner, Waitz competed at the 1972 and 1976 Olympics in the 1,500 meters, set world records for the 3,000 in 1975 and 1976, and was unbeaten in cross-country races for 12 years. □



Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) gets a pass away, against the defense of New York Knicks guard Bill Walker (5) during the second half of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, in Boston on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. The Celtics won 96-93.

(AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

Celtics take 2-0 lead over Knicks with 96-93 win

By HOWARD ULMAN, AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — Kevin Garnett sank the go-ahead basket with 14 seconds left, then stole the ball as the Boston Celtics overcame Carmelo Anthony's 42 points and beat the depleted New York Knicks 96-93 to take a 2-0 lead in their playoff series on Tuesday night.

The Knicks played the entire second half without Amare Stoudemire, who had back spasms. Chauncey Billups missed the game with a sore left knee.

Garnett hit the decisive jump hook after backing Jared Jeffries into the lane.

The Knicks then got the ball to Anthony in the left corner, where he was double-teamed by Paul Pierce and Glen Davis. Anthony passed inside to Jeffries, but Garnett stole the ball and called timeout with 4 seconds remaining.

The Knicks then fouled Delonte West, who made two free throws with 0.6 seconds to go. Rajon Rondo led the Celtics with a career playoff-high 30 points.

Game 3 of the best-of-seven

Eastern Conference first-round series is scheduled for Friday night in New York.

Anthony matched his career playoff high for points and set a new high with 17 rebounds. Toney Douglas had 14 points in place of Billups, whose status for Game 3 was uncertain. Pierce had 20 points after missing his first five shots, and Ray Allen, who hit the game-winning 3-pointer in Boston's 87-85 win in the opener, scored 18.

Anthony was the obvious choice to shoot on New York's final possession. So Pierce and Davis swarmed him when he got the ball just inches from Boston's bench, forcing him to pass to Jeffries, who tried an interior pass instead of going up with the shot.

The Knicks had gone ahead 91-88 with 2:35 left when Anthony took a pass beyond the left arc and made a 3-pointer despite being bumped by Pierce.

Pierce followed with two free throws, then both teams missed jumpers.

On the next possession, Pierce drove the lane to draw a de-

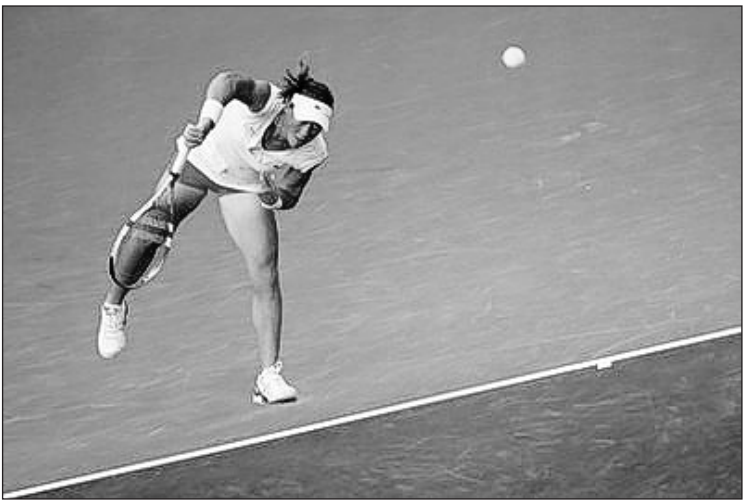
fender and fed a wide-open Garnett for a dunk that put the Celtics on top 92-91 with 49 seconds to go.

Jeffries followed with a layup, giving New York its last lead at 93-92 with 20 seconds left. Now the sixth-seeded Knicks, who have given the third-seeded Celtics all they could handle in two down-to-the-wire games, must win at least one of two at home to bring the series back to Boston.

With the score tied at 59, the Celtics went on a 15-4 run led by Pierce's seven points. Allen and Jeff Green hit 3-pointers during the surge that put Boston on top 74-63 with 45 seconds left in the third quarter.

Then Anthony single-handedly brought the Knicks back by scoring their first seven points of the fourth quarter while Boston managed just a jumper by Pierce. New York was making a game of it, down only 76-74 with 10:01 to play. At that point, Anthony had scored the Knicks' last 13 points and 18 of 20.

After a timeout, Ronny Turiaf tied the game for the Knicks at 76 with a short shot. □



Samantha Stosur of Australia serves against Maria Sharapova of Russia during the Sony Ericsson Open at in Key Biscayne, Florida, last month. Stosur progressed to the second round of Stuttgart's WTA tournament with a straight sets win over Spain's Maria-Jose Martinez Sanchez.

Stuttgart women's tennis

Stosur in 2nd round

by Ryland James

STUTTGART, Germany – Australia's Samantha Stosur progressed to the second round of Stuttgart's WTA tournament with a straight sets win over Spain's Maria-Jose Martinez Sanchez on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old fifth seed, who reached last year's final here, needed just 80 minutes to see off the Spaniard for a 7-5, 6-1 win.

Stosur looked comfortable on the clay, having enjoyed a stellar season on the surface in 2010 when she lost to Justine Henin in last year's final here before going on to reach the French Open final at Roland Garros.

Brisbane-born Stosur had few problems against Martinez Sanchez, who held her own in the first set and battled back from an early break.

Stosur secured a second break in the 12th game to take the opening set, which filled her with confidence and she encountered scant resistance in the second set as Martinez Sanchez's first serve crumbled.

Stosur cruised into a 5-0 lead in the second before Martinez Sanchez stopped the rot when serving to save the match.

She avoided the embarrassment of a whitewash, but Stosur kept her composure and served out the match.

"I am pretty pleased with that," admitted Stosur, who suffered disappointment in January's Australian Open

when the number five seed was knocked out in the third round.

"I have been practising well on clay and it's good to get a win."

This is Stosur's second clay tournament of the year, after she made the last 16 in Charleston earlier this month. Last year, Stosur avenged her Stuttgart final defeat with victory over Henin at Roland Garros before beating top seed Serena Williams and fourth seed Jelena Jankovic on the way to the final.

She lost 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) to Italy's Francesca Schiavone in the final, having become the first Australian since Nicole Bradtke in 1988 to reach the semi-finals of the French Open in 2009.

Wimbledon tennis champs get prize money boost

by Steve Griffiths

LONDON – Wimbledon's singles champions will benefit from a prize money rise taking their earnings to £1.1 million (\$2.9 million) at the 2011 Championships, organisers announced on Tuesday. If men's champion Rafael Nadal and women's winner Serena Williams successfully defend the titles they won last year they will bank a cheque that represents a 10 percent rise of £100,000 on the £1 million prize awarded 12 months ago.

Although the rest of the world continues to endure tough times as the global financial recession continues, there is no sign of the All England Club tightening its belt.

The singles runners-up will earn £550,000, the beaten semi-finalists will get £275,000 and even a first-round loser pockets £11,500 for their efforts.

The total prize money for the 125th Championships, which run from June 20 to July 3, is now £14.6 million, a 6.4 percent increase on last year's amount.

Phillip Brook, the new chairman of the All England Club, defended the announcement of the rises on Tuesday and said: "Leading international sports events such as Wimbledon are all about the quality of the



Spain's Rafael Nadal holds the Wimbledon Men's Singles Trophy at the All England Tennis Club on July 4 last year. Wimbledon's singles champions will benefit from a prize money rise taking their earnings to £1.1 million (\$2.9 million) at the 2011 Championships, organisers announced.

players on show.

"In the competitive world of top-level sport, it is important that we offer prize money which suitably rewards the players both for the box office appeal they bring to the event and their supreme performances on court."

Although Wimbledon remains one of the sport's biggest cash cows, the tournament's bosses are concerned that other tennis events in the United Kingdom could be hit by withdrawals from star players concerned by high taxation.

Athletes who compete in individual sports like tennis and golf are currently taxed a per-

centage of their endorsements for each day they spend in the UK, whereas team sports like football are exempt from those rules.

That infuriates Wimbledon chief executive Ian Ritchie, who has called on the government to drop the law before events like Queen's and the ATP World Tour Finals -- both staged in London -- lose their appeal to stars like Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Roddick.

"To be fair there's been some sympathy from the government but what we need is some action," Ritchie said.

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Spaniards set sights on Fleche cycling glory



Saxo Bank rider Alberto Contador of Spain, center, is seen during the last stage of the Vuelta de Castilla y Leon cycling race over 167 kilometers (104 miles) between Madrigal de la Alta Torres and Medina del Campo, in Valladolid, Spain on Sunday, April, 17, 2011.

(AP Photo/I.Lopez)

CHARLEROI, Belgium – Three-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador and fellow Spaniard Joaquin Rodriguez are among a clutch of riders who have their hearts set on glory in Wednesday's Fleche Wallonne. The Fleche Wallonne, the second of the three Ardennes Classics, is a gruelling 201km affair and the riders must finish up the challenge by negotiating a 9.3km average gradient 1.3km climb at the Muur de Huy. Last year, Cadel Evans of Australia won the

75th edition after a well-timed final burst on the Muur.

But this time out Evans, who beat Rodriguez and Contador to the line 12 months ago, will have to sit it out owing to a painful knee after a heavy crash in training, shortening the odds on a Spanish success.

The Spanish contingent also features Igor Anton, a Basque who placed fourth last time out, and Samuel Sanchez - second in 2006.

Contador is still awaiting a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) judgment after an appeal by the International Cycling Union (UCI) and the World Anti-Doping Agency over a Spanish cycling federation (RFEC) decision to rescind an initial one-year competition ban for doping at the Tour de France.

He tested positive for a tiny amount of the banned muscle-building substance clenbuterol during last July's Tour de France, which he went on to win.

But the RFEC ultimately accepted the rider's claim that he had unknowingly consumed drug-contaminated meat and was therefore not negligent.

In the meantime, Contador is free to continue racing until and unless the CAS rules against him and will be racing in Belgium for what he says will be his final race ahead of the Giro, which starts on May 7, his main goal for this stage of the season.

Contador has been struggling with the onset of a cold as well as mechanical difficulties with his bike in recent days and could only manage 24th place in the Tour of Castilla y Leon on home soil won by compatriot Xavier Tondo. Contador has won the Tour of Murcia and the Tour of Catalonia and will be out to score what would be a big morale boost on Wednesday - but he admits that "the Fleche Wallonne may come a bit too early" for him to show his best form. □

NFL, players resume court-ordered negotiations



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, left, chats with Dallas Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones as they arrive at the federal courthouse Tuesday, April 19, 2011 in Minneapolis where the NFL and its locked-out football players continue court-ordered mediation.

(AP Photo/Jim Mone)

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI, AP Sports Writer
MINNEAPOLIS – The NFL and its players resumed court-ordered mediation Tuesday with a federal judge's decision expected soon on a request to immediately halt a lockout now in its second month. Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones joined the NFL's contingent in Minneapolis as talks resumed following a three-day break. Jones walked in with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and others, including Denver owner Pat Bowlen and Green Bay Packers CEO Mark Murphy. All declined comment. DeMaurice Smith, the head of

the players' trade association, did not attend due to a family emergency.

Linebacker Mike Vrabel and Hall of Fame defensive end Carl Eller were among the players on hand.

The talks are the latest step in the contentious fight over a new collective bargaining agreement.

Sixteen days of mediated talks in Washington fell short, resulting in a class-action antitrust lawsuit filed by the players against the NFL and the league's first work stoppage since 1987.

Michael Hausfeld, an attorney representing retired players, said both sides are serious about reaching a resolution.

"This is no charade. This is no illusion. This is going to come to a resolution either by the parties compromising or agreeing or by a judgment," Hausfeld said Tuesday before talks resumed. "And even with a judgment, many times there is then a discussion as to how to compromise the judgment so there is not a winner-take-all situation.

"This takes time. The court is doing everything within its power to get the parties to realize that."

When discussions concluded on Friday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, who is overseeing the sessions, assigned some weekend homework. □

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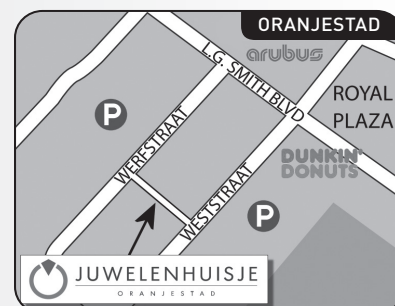
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Hockey team helps re-locate an 11-year-old fan

By PETE DOUGHERTY
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ALBANY, N.Y. — An inspirational story about an 11-year-old boy and a group of caring hockey players has taken a successful turn.

Zach Bennett, who formed a mutual bond with the Albany River Rats, finally will be able to be with the team in Charlotte, N.C.

Bennett suffers from neurofibromatosis (NF1), a genetically inherited degenerative disorder where soft-tissue tumors grow on nerves. Among his numerous surgeries was the amputation of both legs. He was a devoted River Rats fan and probably the saddest last spring when the franchise was sold to a group based in Charlotte, where they became the Checkers.

His family planned a move to

North Carolina, where Zach not only would be closer to his favorite players, but also to better medical facilities. The only snag: The Bennetts were unable to sell their house in Albany.

Checkers owner Michael Kahn became aware of the story, and in January had a special night in Charlotte to honor the Bennetts.

"It was striking that he had stopped progressing in the use of his prosthetics because the team had left town," said Tera Black, the Checkers' chief operating officer. "So we thought it would be great if we could have a reunion so he could see many of the guys who were inspiring to him. Our owner, after we had met the family, said, 'We're going figure out a way to move them down here.'"

The Checkers organized several fundraising initiatives and purchased and refurbished a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house for the Bennetts in Matthews, N.C., southeast of Charlotte. The team closed on the house last month, and the Bennetts — Zach, parents Randy and Danielle, and 9-year-old sister Jenna will soon be moving there.

"All we knew it was his mission to get us down there," Danielle Bennett said, referring to Kahn. "We didn't know it was going to come to this length, to this outcome." The Bennetts first saw their

new home in late March.

"They thought they were just going to see the house and that was it," Black said. "I had the players hidden in the garage, and we had our whole staff and everybody who worked in the house standing in a semicircle on the lawn. We had Chubby Checker, our giant mascot, drive their Albany River Rats van, with them in the back.

"He got out of the van and was in his wheelchair, and we opened the garage and the players yelled, 'Welcome to Charlotte, Bennett family!' There was no media there, no nothing, just us. Zach saw all the players, and his face was something you can't even explain. He hopped out of his wheelchair and starting walking on his stumps to greet them and walk up to the front door of the house. It was just amazing. I've never been a part of something so moving in my career."

Because the team is still trying to raise money, Black said she didn't yet want to release the total cost of the project. The Checkers earned \$17,000

at a jersey auction the night the Bennetts were in attendance. The team's NHL partner, the Carolina Hurricanes, raised another \$7,650 at their own auction. A Facebook promotion added \$16,550. There were private donors, and the Checkers plan another jersey auction during the current American Hockey League playoffs.

The real estate agent even donated her commission, enabling the team to buy bedroom furniture for the home, according to Black.

"I was at a loss for words," Danielle Bennett said. "It was an amazing feeling, a touching feeling, heartwarming.

"For me, Zachary's special. He's always been my peace of mind. I can be stressed because he's going through another surgery, but, within myself, I know that if he's not complaining, I'm OK with it." Zach hears regularly from many of the players, either through email, text messaging or phone calls.

"The guys never stopped contacting him," his mother said. □

Heat getting defensive at right time of year



Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) tries to block Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala (9) during the second half of Game 2 of the first-round NBA playoff basketball series in Miami, Monday, April 18, 2011. The Heat won 94-73.

(AP Photo/J Pat Carter)

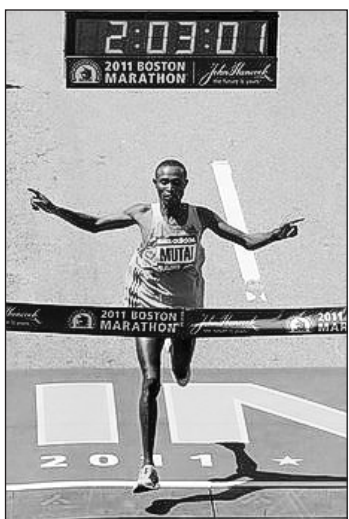
By TIM REYNOLDS,
AP Sports Writer
MIAMI — Philadelphia closed Game 2 of its Eastern

Conference first-round series against Miami by making five straight shots, which saved the 76ers from ignominy.

Only 19 teams in the last 19 seasons had shot less than 30 percent in a playoff game.

And the Heat had the 76ers on the cusp of joining that group, holding Philly to just under 30 percent until the final moments of Monday's Game 2 romp. Miami won 94-73 to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series. It's exactly what Heat coach Erik Spoelstra wants to see this time of year.

When Miami flies north to Philadelphia for Game 3 on Thursday night, confidence will likely be in abundance with the Heat in command of the series and the Sixers getting more than a bit frustrated on the offensive end. □



Geoffrey Mutai of Kenya, takes the final strides of the fastest marathon ever run in the men's division of the 115th Boston Marathon in Boston, Monday, April 18, 2011.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Boston wants Geoffrey Mutai's winning time to be world record

By JIMMY GOLEN,
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — Boston Marathon officials say they will apply to the international track governing body to have Geoffrey Mutai's winning time of 2 hours, 3 minutes, 2 seconds certified as a world record.

IAAF rules say the Boston course is ineligible to set a record because it is technically downhill. The course's layout also allows for a tailwind that wouldn't be possible on a loop course like the governing body prefers.

But Boston officials say that the 115-year history of the race shows it is not an artificially fast course. The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon — older than the IAAF itself. □

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New Beginning

Belief in rebirth is not confined to Buddhism. Few Christians realize the importance of the concept of reincarnation or rebirth in Judaism. The Buddhist and Jewish beliefs are similar in that it is the very subtle, non-material mind which survives death. Since this is the only thing that we can take with us to the future, we need to make the best use of our present life to improve its state. One of the objectives of Buddhist meditation is to stabilize the mind and remove negative imprints in order to avoid uncontrolled, unbalanced rebirths.

In the Christian tradition, there are a number of references to past lives in the New Testament. It is likely that the early church, especially the Celtic Christians, believed in reincarnation. Unfortunately Celtic Christianity was suppressed by the authoritarian continental church at the Synod of Whitby in 664, which confirmed the triumph of formal religion over spirituality.

Rebirth as understood in Hinduism involves a permanent soul, a conscious entity which transmigrates from one body to another. The soul inhabits a given body and at death, the soul casts that body off and goes on to assume another body as a man who might take off one suit of clothing and put on another. The man remains the same but the clothing is different. In the same way the soul

remains the same but the psycho-physical organism it takes up differs from life to life.

Reincarnation is a very old belief and a large fraction of the world population believes it. For example Rene Descartes' statement "What I have said is sufficient to show clearly enough that the extinction of the mind does not follow from the corruption of the body and also to give men the hope of another life after death." in 1641 confirms his belief in reincarnation. About twenty percent of those in the Western World whose religions reject reincarnation nevertheless believe it. According to opinion polls this percentage is rising.

There are two parts to the definition of rebirth; the first means 'reincarnation' while the second part of the definition means 'a revival'. The word 'revival' is similarly interesting having no less than seven meanings. One of the explanations is the recovering of life. Sounds like the process of getting your health back.

In many parts of the world Easter heralds spring as well as the resurrection of Christ. Resurrection is the rising again from the dead, the resumption of life. Many people believe death is our greatest enemy that has conquered all men but Christ. The universal reign of decay and death is called in the Bible "the bondage of corruption" as

found in Romans 8:21.

In science decay has come to be recognized as the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This Law is now recognized as a universal law of science, with no known exception ever observed. It says, quite simply that every system tends to become disordered, to run down and eventually to die. Its entropy, which is a measure of disorder, always tends to increase. True, true, yet on a daily basis in our clinic we see patients slowing down even reversing this disorder. Lack of energy, low sex drive, not sleeping well, losing your enthusiasm for your work and an active home life with children and spouse is a warning. Even more serious are the majority of people who fall into one or more of categories where they are suffering from: Overweight, High blood pressure, High cholesterol, Diabetes, or arteriosclerosis.

Just as your garage, your child's room or our desks could be in complete disorder, with some time and energy focused on the mess, it can be cleaned up to function better. However, some of us need a little help from our friends to get started on the path. Our clinic offers a holistic or whole-body approach to your body's disorder. Using biocompatible or life-friendly medicine, we help you understand the causes of discomfort and sickness. We first evaluate you as a whole

person, not a list of symptoms. After a consultation we might continue the investigation with science based testing as necessary. With the information we receive we begin to help you clean house, removing the useless or harmful materials from your body. Cleansing procedures offered at our clinic such as colon hydro therapy provides a good sanitizing! We then recommend fresh live food and quality supplements to enhance your body's recovery. Finally lifestyle coaching completes the healthy picture. With every patient who declares that, indeed, they are feeling better we are experiencing a revival; a return to a balanced, healthy state. Instead of accepting the consequences of aging and the disorder caused by degenerative diseases, people are choosing to be reborn, now, into a more healthy life. Get The Point! The resurrection caught the disciples completely by surprise. There is no indication that they had any hope after Christ's death. In fact, as reported in Luke 24:37 when they did see Him, they were frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost. Our best advertisement are the many patients revivals seen by family members, friends, and work colleagues who would like to experience the same benefits. Make an appointment so we can help you plan your health revival.



Dr. Carlos Viana

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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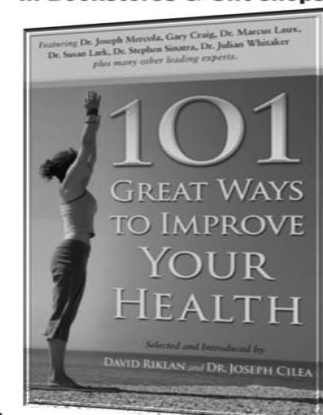
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Porn company is amassing 1-800 numbers



Glenn Noyes poses for photos at his business, Patriot Auto Services, in Edgewater Md. Shortly after the toll-free number for Noyes' auto repair business was mistakenly canceled by his phone company, it was snapped up by toll-free service provider PrimeTel and callers were redirected to an erotic chat service called 'Intimate Encounters.'

By DAVID B. CARUSO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — For years, teenagers across the U.S. could call a toll-free hotline if they had embarrassing questions about AIDS and safe sex. Dial the same number now and you get a recording of giggling women offering to talk dirty to you.

"We both have big appetites

for sex," they purr. "Pinch us and poke us. Spank us and tease us. We love it all. ... Enter your credit card number now."

Those naughty misdials, and countless others like them, appear to be no accident.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show that over the past 13 years, a little-known Philadelphia company called PrimeTel Communications has quietly gained control over nearly a quarter of all the 1-800 numbers in the U.S. and Canada, often by grabbing them the moment they are relinquished by previous users. As of March, it administered more 800 numbers than any other company, including Verizon and AT&T. And many, if not most, of those 1.7 million numbers appear to be used for one thing: redirecting callers to a phone-sex service.

Dial 1-800-Chicago and instead of reaching a tourism hotline for the Windy City,

you will hear a woman offering "one-on-one talk with a nasty girl" for \$2.99 per minute. A similar thing happens if you punch in the initial digits of 1-800-Metallica, 1-800-Cadillac, 1-800-Minolta, 1-800-Cameras, 1-800-Whirlpool.

All those numbers contain messages redirecting callers to erotic chat lines operated by National A-1 Advertising, a company that shares an office building with PrimeTel, has common ownership and lists many of the same people as executives or business contacts.

Many people who mistakenly dial a phone-sex line probably just get red-faced and hang up as quickly as possible. Others apparently respond to the come-on and supply their credit card number.

"I guess enough people go for it that it makes business sense," said Aelea Christofferson, president of ATL Communications. □

Sony Ericsson battles for parts after Japan quake



A Sony-Ericsson Xperia Play is displayed at the GSMA Mobile World Congress in Barcelona

By Simon Johnson and Tarmo Virki
Associated Press

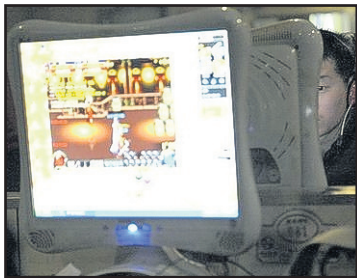
STOCKHOLM/HELSINKI — Cellphone maker Sony Ericsson is suffering component shortages following the Japanese earthquake and has roped in its bigger parents to give it more muscle in the fight for supplies with bigger rivals.

Chief Executive Bert Nordberg said there were shortages of displays, batteries, camera modules and some printed circuit boards due to the March 11 quake, adding the problem was stabilizing but would definitely have a bigger impact in the second quarter.

"We are now fighting for parts with bigger players," Nordberg told AP in an interview, adding the company was co-operating closely with its parent groups Sony Corp and Ericsson to garner more influence in talks with parts makers. First-quarter results from Sony Ericsson, which only returned to profit a year ago after seven straight quarters of losses, showed the company staying in the black on the back of booming smartphone demand and cost cuts. Yet Nordberg's comments add to signals from other global companies on the continuing impact of the earthquake.

Earlier on Tuesday Toshiba Corp said its operating profit missed forecasts due to the disaster, while chip maker Texas Instruments Inc warned overnight of slower-than-usual quarterly sales growth as it scrambles to restart production. □

Technology addiction takes toll in Asia



A chinese man plays online games at an internet cafe in Beijing in 2010. A baby girl starves to death as her parents raise a virtual child online; a boy scolded for excessive gaming kills his mother then commits suicide technology addiction is taking a toll in Asia

by Philip Lim

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — A baby girl starves to death as her parents raise a virtual child online; a boy scolded for excessive gaming kills his mother then commits suicide technology addiction is taking a toll in Asia. With more 100 million "smartphones" now sold annually in the Asia-Pacific region expected to double in five years' time it is the world's largest market for ad-

vanced mobile devices.

And as social networking sites and mobile games explode in tandem with the telecom industry, many young Asians are finding it tough to cope without a gadget in hand or a computer within reach.

"I guess you can call me addicted, fine," admitted 22-year-old Singaporean university student Hanna Ruslana, who has befriended more schoolmates on Twitter than on campus.

She checks her iPhone at least every 15 minutes and maintains accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare and LinkedIn. When Twitter freezes, she and her friends plunge into an anxious wait. But hers is a mild case compared to tragic examples in South Korea, one of the world's most electronically-connected societies.

Last December, a mother was arrested for allegedly killing her three-year-old son while she was tired from Internet game-playing.

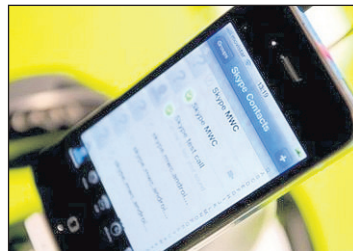
EU warns telecom firms against blocking Skype

by Laurent Thomet

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Commission launched a probe Tuesday into charges that telecom firms block next-to-free Internet phone services to undermine competitors or degrade the quality of online videos. With the proliferation of smart phones putting the Internet in the palm of consumers' hands, the European Union's executive arm asked a panel of national regulators to check that telecom firms are maintaining "net neutrality." Neelie Kroes, the EU telecoms commissioner, warned that the investigation could lead to new rules if operators are found to be misleading consumers about the speed of their Internet services or blocking certain applications. "Customers should not be led to believe they can access services that in practice are blocked or degraded. Nor should customers be hoodwinked about misleading claims about connection speeds," Kroes said.

The commission concedes



A smartphone shows a Skype application. The European Commission launched a probe Tuesday into charges that telecom firms block next-to-free Internet phone services to undermine competitors or degrade the quality of online videos.

that the management of Internet traffic is vital to prevent a congestion of Web networks with the massive use of heavy-data video services such as Google's YouTube website or the BBC's iPlayer. But the commission wants to ensure companies are not managing Internet traffic to discriminate against competitors. In a commission public consultation last year, users and content providers complained that mobile operators in six EU countries were blocking or charging extra for voice over Internet protocol

(VoIP) services such as Skype. "One UK operator is said to make Skype calls technically impossible in afternoons and evenings without warning the users," Kroes said, adding that customers should be informed about any restrictions. She also said she was informed that some providers use so-called throttling techniques to slow down the traffic of video streaming provided by a competitor in order to degrade the quality of content. "It is not okay for Skype and other such services to be 'throttled.' That is anti-competitive, it is not okay to rip off consumers on connection speeds," Kroes said. The EU's executive commission said that while it "does not have evidence to conclude that these concerns are justified at this stage," a more "exhaustive fact-finding exercise" was necessary to clear any concerns.

The findings of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) will be published by the end of the year. □

Business News At A Glance

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WALL STREET SENDS WARNING TO U.S. ON DEBT LEVELS

The ratings firm Standard & Poor’s on Monday lowered its outlook on the United States rating to negative. Although the agency did not actually lower its highest AAA rating on the country’s debt, it was the first time since the S&P started assigning outlooks in 1989 that the country was given an outlook that was something other than stable. The action spooked investors, sending the three main stock indexes down more than 1 percent, and the markets turned sharply lower in reaction to the news. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 140.24 points, or 1.14 percent lower, at 12,201.59. □

TICKETMASTER PLANS TO USE A VARIABLE PRICING POLICY

The concert giant Ticketmaster announced a partnership Monday with MarketShare, a data analyst, that will look at ways to introduce what is known as dynamic pricing, which allows promoters to adjust prices according to demand. In theory, this would allow promoters to sell the most sought-after tickets at a higher price, while filling up the least desirable seats by charging less. Not every event would be sold that way. But it would also allow the company to compete more effectively against scalpers like StubHub.com. Ticketmaster said it would begin to introduce its new pricing policy this year. □

HOTELS TURN TO SOCIAL MEDIA TO CONNECT WITH TRAVELERS

Hotels have begun offering direct bookings through Facebook and smartphone apps, and they hope that the convenience and direct contact will lure back travelers who have been turning to online travel agencies. Hotels need to make sure that their booking engines can be found wherever the customer is, rather than asking the customer to search them out, said Glenn Withiam, a spokesman for Cornell’s School of Hotel Administration, which recently held a hotel industry conference that examined social media. Offering reservations directly helps to keep the conversation between the hotel and its guests, Withiam said. □

CITI REPORTS LARGE DROP IN PROFIT AND REVENUE

Citigroup took another halting step forward Monday in its long march back from the brink, reporting a \$3 billion profit in the first quarter, in spite of continuing losses in its mortgage unit and lackluster investment banking results.

As has been the case for other financial giants, Citigroup’s revenue actually fell during the first quarter, as nearly every major region and business except Latin America experienced a slowdown from a year earlier. Overall, revenue declined 22 percent, to \$19.7 billion. Expenses also continued to rise, in part because of new business investments as well as higher legal costs. □

COURT HEARS MICROSOFT PATENT CASE

Microsoft’s challenge to a \$290 million award against it in a patent infringement suit faced significant headwinds Monday during arguments at the Supreme Court. Some justices suggested that the court’s precedents were at odds with Microsoft’s position. The federal government supported the Canadian software company, i4i Limited Partnership, that had won in the lower courts. In defending against the lawsuit, which contended that Microsoft Word infringed i4i’s method for editing documents, Microsoft had argued that the patent was invalid. □



Wall Street flat on mixed earnings reports



Floor trader Joe Quaglieri uses a phone on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange

Associated Press

By Rodrigo Campos

NEW YORK – U.S. stocks were little changed on Tuesday as sliding revenue in financial companies pointed to a struggling economy. Earnings from healthcare company Johnson & Johnson and a stronger-than-expected reading in housing starts buoyed specific sectors, but the S&P 500 index struggled to rise solidly above the key 1,300 level. Goldman Sachs Group Inc (GS.N), the largest U.S. investment bank, fell 1.4 percent to \$151.64 after it posted a decline in quarterly earnings as trading revenue dropped, and cautioned there were fewer opportunities to make money in the current environment. “Revenues in financial earnings are below expectations, and other sectors are not providing enough of a positive surprise either,” said Subodh Kumar, chief investment strategist at Subodh Kumar & Associates in Toronto. “That means future business is not as strong as markets have thought, and future business in financials is a glimpse that the economy is still fairly fragile.” Johnson & Johnson (JNJ.N), up 2.8 percent to \$62.15, was the top boost to the Dow after reporting stronger-than-expected sales and earnings. An index of pharmaceutical shares (.DRG) gained 0.4 percent. Homebuilders largely outperformed the market after government data showed U.S. housing starts and permits for future home construction rose more than expected in March. PulteGroup (PHM.N) rose 3.2 percent to \$8.09 and KB Home (KBH.N) added 1 percent to \$11.41. The Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) gained 12.26 points, or 0.10 percent, to 12,213.85. The Standard & Poor’s 500 Index (.SPX) added 0.34 points, or 0.03 percent, to 1,305.48. The Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) dropped 4.90 points, or 0.18 percent, to 2,730.48. Seagate Technology Plc (STX.O) fell 3.4 percent to \$17.23 after it posted results and announced a deal to buy Samsung Electronics Co’s (005930.KS) hard disk business for \$1.4 billion in cash and stock. Seagate’s third-quarter profit was below market expectations on lower hard-drive shipments. Other companies scheduled to report quarterly results later on Tuesday include Intel Corp (INTC.O), International Business Machines Corp (IBM.N), Yahoo Inc (YHOO.O) and CSX Corp (CSX.N). □



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange near the Goldman Sachs

Associated Press

Goldman profit drops as trading revenue falls

By Lauren Tara LaCapra and Dan Wilchins

NEW YORK – Goldman Sachs Group Inc posted a 72 percent decline in quarterly earnings as trading revenue dropped, and the bank warned there were fewer opportunities to make money in the current environment. The results were stronger than many analysts had expected, but with Goldman discussing risks to future profits, the bank’s shares fell 1.4 percent to \$151.64. Goldman has long been viewed as an earnings machine, consistently generating some of the highest returns on Wall Street.

But U.S. financial reform threatens profits from what historically have been key sources of revenue for Goldman, including trading for its own account and trading derivatives with clients. In January the bank posted a 53 percent decline in fourth-quarter profit and talked about how client trading volume in December was “dead,” and many investors wondered if the bank’s return on equity was likely to be permanently lower. On Tuesday, Goldman said first-quarter trading revenue had rebounded 83 percent from the fourth quarter. □

Home building rises, foreclosures a threat

By Lucia Mutikani

WASHINGTON – U.S. home building and permits for future construction rebounded strongly last month from February’s weather-depressed levels, but a glut of housing on the market will make further gains difficult. Housing starts rose 7.2 percent to an annual rate of 549,000 units from an upwardly revised 512,000-unit pace in February, the Commerce Department said on Tuesday. The rise marked a bounce back after an 18.5 percent drop in February when severe winter weather restrained activity. Although the

increase beat Wall Street’s expectations for a 549,000-unit pace, economists said it did not signal a decisive shift in construction, which continues to be dragged down by stiff competition from a flood of foreclosed properties. “The rebound in housing starts in March does little to hide the fact that home building activity remains close to rock bottom,” said Paul Dales, a senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics in Toronto. “With both the demand and need for new homes still very low, housing starts aren’t going to enjoy a more meaningful re-



Geithner: no risk U.S. will lose AAA credit rating

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner testifies before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government on Capitol

Geithner made the comments in a morning blitz of three major business network interviews to voice disagreement with the S&P move and emphasize Washington was serious about putting in place mechanisms that would bring down deficits.

“Actually, I think things are better than they’ve been if you want to think about the prospects for improving our long-term fiscal position,” Geithner told CNBC television. “If you’re looking very carefully at what’s happening in Washington you see people on both sides Democrats and Republicans agreeing with the president that we have to put in place some reforms now to bring down our long-term deficits,” he added. Geithner told Bloomberg Television that both domestic and foreign investors are still confident in U.S. debt and the stronger growth prospects of the U.S. economy. □

WASHINGTON – U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on Tuesday said there was “no risk” that the United States would lose its prized AAA credit rating, saying political prospects for long-term deficit reduction were improving. “No risk of that,” Geithner told Fox Business Network when asked if the United States would see a downgrade after Standard & Poor’s on Monday slapped a negative outlook on its Treasury debt rating. “Again, if you listen carefully now, you see the leadership of the United States of America ... recognizing now this is the right thing to do for the economy.”



Builders work on the roof of a new home under construction in the Montreal suburb of Brossard

Associated Press

covery for a few years yet.” Residential construction accounts for about 2.4 percent of gross domestic product, and the latest data suggest it would do little, if anything, to lift the economy in the first quarter. □

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23 APRIL	SATURDAY	Live Band Music/ first 100 guests receive \$10 to play on slots	9PM
24 APRIL	SUNDAY	COOL EASTER Back to Back Slot Tournament/Egg Hunting \$1000 in Prizes (\$10 inscription)	6:30 PM
25 APRIL	MONDAY	Cool Easter back to back Slot Tournament \$1000 in Cool Prizes	6:30PM
1 MAY	SUNDAY	BIG BLACKJACK TOURNAMENT \$2500 Cool PRIZES	7PM

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Spurlock's for sale in 'Greatest Movie Ever Sold'



Director Morgan Spurlock of the film 'The Greatest Movie Ever Sold' poses for a portrait in the Fender Music Lodge during the 2011 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Spurlock's 'The Greatest Movie Ever Sold' examines product placement and movie marketing from a unique perspective: his documentary was paid for entirely through product placement and marketing deals.

By DAVID GERMAIN
Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — Morgan Spurlock pigged out on McDonald's chow in his documentary "Super Size Me." Now he's lining up at corporate America's cash trough.

Spurlock's "The Greatest Movie Ever Sold" examines product placement and movie marketing from a unique perspective: his documentary was paid for entirely through product placement and marketing deals. A serious yet hilarious study about balancing commerce and creative control, the film follows Spurlock's quest to create a "doc-buster," the documentary equivalent of studio flicks that become blockbusters through all-pervasive webs of co-branding and cross-promotion. Consumer advocate Ralph Nader, who's among those interviewed on camera, warned the filmmaker that the result could be a "commercialized, corporatized Morgan Spurlock." The director said he ceded no artistic control to any of the roughly 20 companies that signed on as financial and marketing partners, among them Hyatt Hotels, JetBlue Airways, Mini Cooper cars and Amy's Kitchen foods. "Maintaining control. □

Pope's shrink film stirs controversy in Italy

by Jean-Louis de la Vaissiere
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — A new film about a panic-prone pope who needs a psychoanalyst has divided Italy's Catholics, with a call for its boycott coming from the pages of an influential bishops' newspaper.

Writing in the *Avvenire* daily, Vatican expert Salvatore Izzo said Italian director Nanni Moretti's film "Habemus Papam" was not respectful towards the head of the world's Roman Catholics and would be "boring" for non-believers. "We shouldn't touch the pope the rock on which Jesus founded his Church," said Izzo, adding that "even priests" had absolved the film after its release on Friday "with the curious justification that Moretti could have been meaner."

"Why should we support financially that which offends



Italian film maker Nanni Moretti poses during a photocall for his new movie 'Habemus Papam,' in Rome. The film, about a panic-prone pope who needs a psychoanalyst, has divided Italy's Catholics, with a call for its boycott coming from the pages of an influential bishops' newspaper.

our religion?" said Izzo, who writes about the Vatican for Italian news agency AGI. The film comes just ahead of Easter, on Sunday, and the beatification ceremony in the Vatican on May 1 that will put late pope John Paul II on the path to sainthood. □

'Rio' soars to year's best film debut

LOS ANGELES — Audiences flocked to theaters to see tropical bird comedy "Rio," knocking fellow kid-flick "Hop" off its perch to score the best debut weekend of the year, final industry data has shown.

The 3-D cartoon, about a pet macaw Blu voiced by "Social Network" star Jesse Eisenberg which bolts from chilly climes to the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, raked in a cool \$39.2 million in the Friday-to-Sunday period, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

The film scared off the debut of "Scream 4," the latest in director Wes Craven's irony-drenched horror-comedy franchise, which took the second spot with \$18.7 million. Easter romp "Hop," the real-action-animation hybrid about the wayward son of the Easter Bunny and which had spent two weeks at the top, earned another \$10.7 million at the weekend for a domestic total of \$82.1 million.

"Hanna," a thriller about a teenage assassin raised in the wilds of North Finland, and which debuted last week in



Actor Jesse Eisenberg arrives at the premiere of Rio at the Chinese theater in Hollywood, California. Audiences flocked to theaters to see tropical bird comedy "Rio," knocking fellow kid-flick "Hop" off its perch to score the best debut weekend of the year, final industry data has shown

second spot, slipped two spots to fourth, where it earned \$7.28 million.

The weekend estimates showed "Soul Surfer," starring AnnaSophia Robb as a churchgoing teenage surfer who returns to the ocean after losing an arm in a shark attack, hanging ten in the fifth spot with \$7.26 million.

"Arthur," the Russell Brand-starring remake of the 1981 Oscar-winning hit about an irresponsible but lovable bil-

lionaire, earned \$6.75 million in sixth place.

Horror flick "Insidious," in which a family finds itself living in a haunted house, picked up \$6.72 million for seventh place. Made for a paltry \$1.5 million, the film has pulled in an impressive total of \$35.8 million over three weeks.

Jake Gyllenhaal's critically acclaimed sci-fi thriller "Source Code," about a government experiment to find the bomber of a commuter train, took eighth spot, with \$6.2 million.

"Your Highness," a knights-and-princess adventure starring Danny McBride, James Franco and Natalie Portman, whose week-to-week sales plunged 58 percent, came in at ninth with \$4 million.

Rounding out the top 10 was film icon Robert Redford's latest movie "The Conspirator," a historical drama about the men behind Abraham Lincoln's assassination, which on in its limited release made \$3.5 million, though its average sales per theater were among the highest of the weekend. □

Francesca Battistelli's surges in Christian music

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Christian singer Francesca Battistelli breathes a sigh of relief, plopping down on her sofa at home for the first time in months after finishing up a 47-city concert tour. "I'm very grateful for a little time off," she says. "It's always bittersweet when a tour ends. It was a wonderful experience. But I'm glad to be home now. I haven't seen my house in a while."

This year has been the most successful and busiest of Battistelli's life. She and husband/band leader Matthew Goodwin juggled being parents to their baby boy while on the road for three months as one of the headliners for the Winter Jam tour.

Battistelli's second major label album, "Hundred More Years," reached No. 1 on Billboard's Top Christian Albums



Christian music singer Francesca Battistelli is photographed at her home in White, Ga.

chart last month. The success of her album earned the singer four nominations at the Dove Awards, which takes place in Atlanta and airs Sunday on the Gospel Music Channel. At the Dove Awards, the 25-year-old is seeking to claim

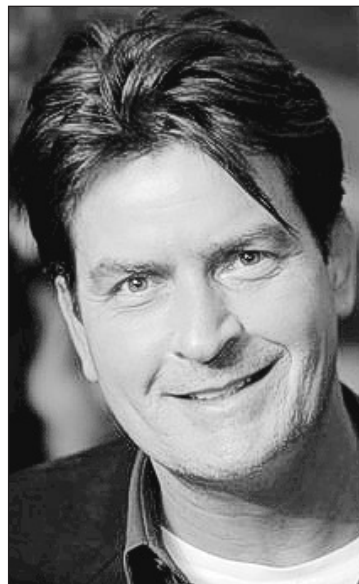
her second straight award for best female vocalist and her first as artist of the year. The singer says she feels gratified by the nominations for her latest album after overcoming the fear of having a sophomore slump.

"I wondered if people were going to like it," she says. "But it was like a stamp of approval when your peers and others from the industry say I've done a great job."

Battistelli quickly became noticeable in the Christian music scene with her debut album, "My Paper Heart," which has sold more than 410,000 copies. Last year, she ended Natalie Grant's four-year reign as the Dove's female vocalist of the year.

Some of Battistelli's songs from her debut album were featured on several television shows such as ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and NBC's "The Biggest Loser." □

Charlie Sheen appears in court for divorce hearing



Charlie Sheen in Los Angeles

By ANTHONY McCARTNEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former “Two and a Half Men” star Charlie Sheen went before a Los Angeles judge Tuesday seeking custody of his twin sons with estranged wife Brooke Mueller, who also attended the closed hearing. Sheen and Mueller finalized their divorce months ago, but it does not become official until May 2. She has reportedly checked back into rehab

in recent days.

The former couple have sparred in recent months, with Mueller accusing Sheen of threatening her with a pen knife. The couple reached an agreement and Mueller dropped her request for a restraining order.

Sheen is in the midst of a multicounty tour titled “My Violent Torpedo of Truth Defeat is Not an Option” and is scheduled to perform Tuesday night in Washington, DC.

In Santa Monica, Sheen’s attorneys are arguing his \$100 million lawsuit over his firing from “Men” should be heard in the public courts system rather than through private arbitration as his former employer, Warner Bros. Television, wants.

Sheen’s attorneys argue an arbitration clause in his contract is unenforceable and the case should be decided by a jury if it proceeds that far.

Warner Bros. denies Sheen’s claims and in court filings stated that the actor’s contract calls for disputes to be decided by binding arbitration. □

Ice-T’s memoir is as cool as the author

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER

Associated Press

“Ice: A Memoir of Gangster Life and Redemption from South Central to Hollywood” (Ballantine Books), by Ice-T: A lot of vocalists sing and rap about situations and events they haven’t experienced.

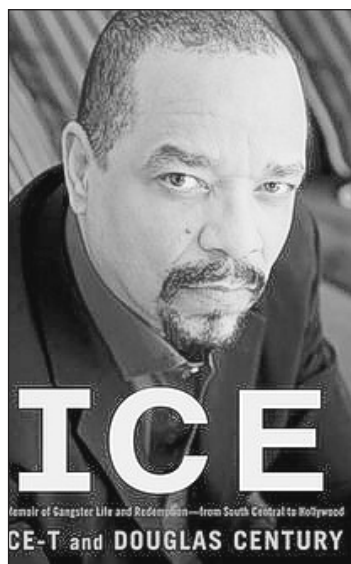
Ice-T isn’t one of them.

One of the first “gangsta rappers,” Ice-T rhymed about hustling, banging and pimping on the mean streets of south-central Los Angeles.

Turns out, the lyrics Ice-T spewed, first as a solo rapper and later as the frontman of the thrash-metal outfit Body Count were the musings of a man who has lived them.

In his book, “Ice: A Memoir of Gangster Life and Redemption from South Central to Hollywood,” Ice-T describes how he “rapped about the (stuff) I knew firsthand... To me, it was just the life I was living. If anyone asked me at the time, I called it ‘reality rap.’”

Based on that definition, let’s call this a “reality book” a tell-all that really does tell all. And it’s as cool as its namesake.



In this book cover image released by Ballantine Books, “Ice: A Memoir of Gangster Life and Redemption - from South Central to Hollywood,” by Ice-T and Douglas Century is shown

“Ice” is full of vivid descriptions of the never-boring life of the man born Tracy Marrow. Raised as an only child in New Jersey, he became a pre-teen orphan whose parents both died of heart attacks. Shipped to live with his alcoholic aunt in L.A., Marrow had a front-row seat for the early years of the West Coast gangs as a student at Crenshaw High School.

He eventually graduated to becoming a street hustler and thief who was shot at by a security guard and nearly killed in a car accident. Hospital officials didn’t know who he was, since, as a criminal, he never carried identification.

Marrow served a nearly four-year stint in the Army, stationed in Hawaii, where he credits an old-school sergeant with shaping his later career arc.

The Vietnam vet, referred to only as Donovan, screamed at Marrow that he was in the service simply because he couldn’t make it in civilian life.

“More than anything else, that’s the one statement that propelled me to where I’m at today. I give Sergeant Donovan all the credit,” Ice-T writes. “Ice” also provides readers with a behind-the-scenes look at his genesis as an actor, including how director Mario Van Peebles came across Ice-T in a club and hired him to portray an undercover cop in the influential early ‘90s flick, “New Jack City.” □

Flash mobs, rapping record mark first O Music Awards

LOS ANGELES — The inaugural O Music Awards the new anti-awards show that celebrates the growing power of digital music will be hosted in Las Vegas next week, organizers MTV Music Group said.

But the precise location for performances, flash mobs and other events is being kept secret for a while longer, in line with the venture’s bid to promote creativity over the red carpets and trophy handouts that mark traditional award shows. English folk rock band Mumford & Sons, rappers Lil B and Lupe Fiasco, Nashville-base string band Old Crow Medicine Show and others will perform during the week-long event starting on April 25, both from the Las Vegas hub and at other locations around the country. The main event on April 28 will jump start with Chidera “Chiddy” Anamege of alternative hip-hop group Chid-



Dermot McCormack

dy Bang attempting to set a world record for the longest freestyle rap, MTV Music Group said.

“I’ve been freestyling since I was 14 years old and this is definitely me putting myself to the test,” Chiddy said of his attempt to enter the Guinness Book of Records.

The award event will begin on Thursday evening when a flash mob will descend on “a surprise iconic Las Vegas location”, organizers said.

The O Music Awards will showcase a range of artists and

appearances by web celebrities and innovators. Awards will be presented throughout the week in several ways, including live streaming, viral videos and on social media sites to reflect the growth of music buying and sharing on sites like iTunes, YouTube and blogs.

“The advent of the digital space has changed forever the way we discover, experience and enjoy music,” said Dermot McCormack, executive vice president, digital, for MTV Music.

“The time has come to celebrate and award achievements and innovations in this space

with an experimental, ever evolving unorthodox and forward facing event,” McCormack added.

The O in the title stands for open to interpretation, or on-line or ongoing, organizers said. □

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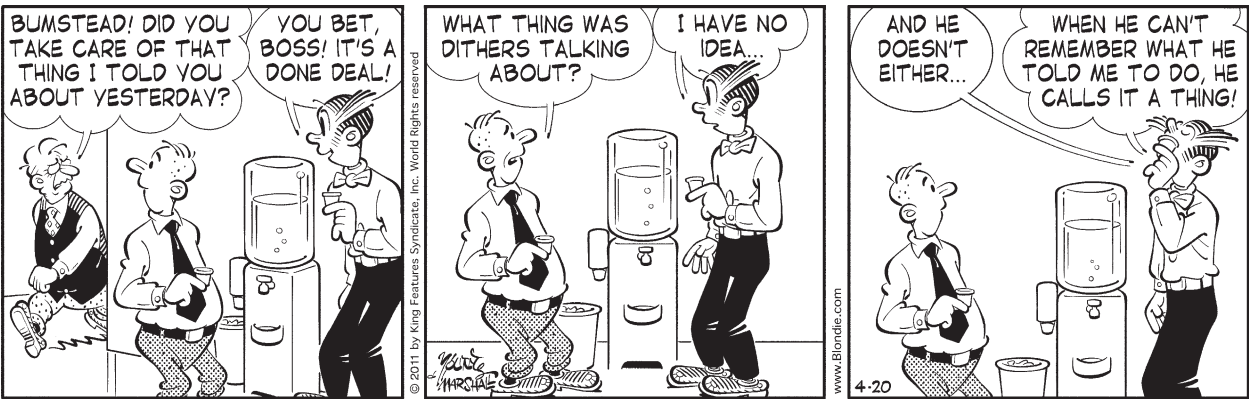
Mutts



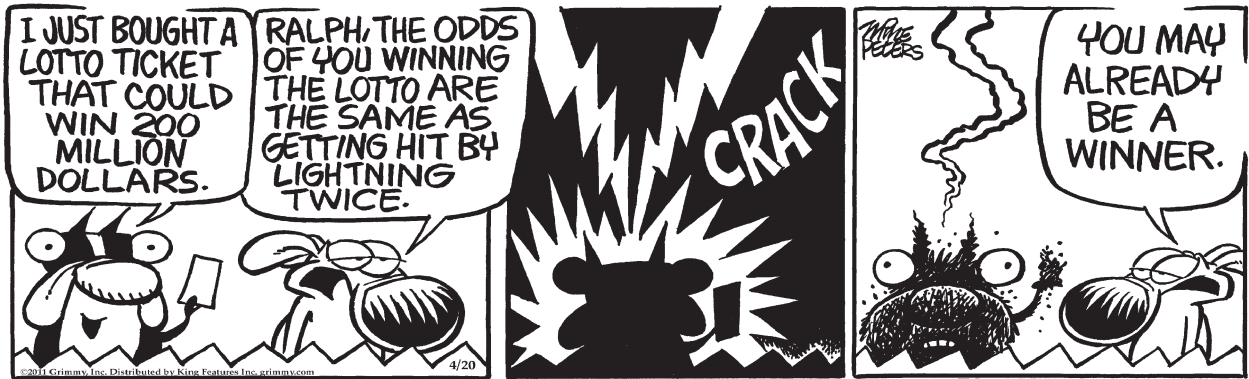
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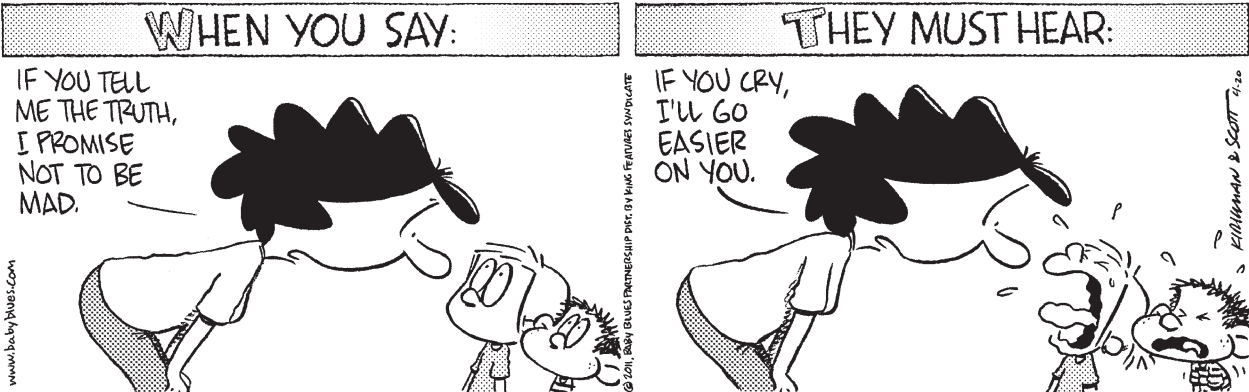
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9	8			7	3	2	4
3			8					7
4			9					8
6			7				4	
	1	5					8	
9			5			1		
1			2			7		
8			1		5			
	3	7			6			

Difficulty Level ★★

4/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer	5	4	8	2	9	1	3	6	7
	6	9	7	5	3	8	4	2	1
	2	3	1	6	7	4	5	9	8
	4	8	2	7	1	5	6	3	9
	9	7	6	8	4	3	2	1	5
	3	1	5	9	2	6	8	7	4
	7	6	9	4	5	2	1	8	3
	8	5	3	1	6	9	7	4	2
	1	2	4	3	8	7	9	5	6

ACROSS

- 1 Little drinks
- 5 Robbery
- 10 Leather-piercing tools
- 14 Tehran's nation
- 15 Enthusiastic
- 16 Let fall
- 17 Ripped
- 18 Lying flat
- 19 Small plateau
- 20 Went in
- 22 Cupboard
- 24 Actress — McClanahan
- 25 Fragrant wood
- 26 Sultan's wives
- 29 Golf hole average
- 30 Ties one's shoes
- 34 ___ tea; cold beverage
- 35 Skirt's edge
- 36 Flood
- 37 Give a nickname to
- 38 Pampers and Luvs
- 40 Maidenform product
- 41 Piano pieces
- 43 Alfalfa, for one
- 44 Bleachers level
- 45 Arrange
- 46 Go bad
- 47 Taps a golf ball
- 48 Not inebriated
- 50 Hint
- 51 Fluttered about erratically
- 54 One who writes or tells jokes
- 58 Ceremony
- 59 Cramps
- 61 Bird of peace
- 62 Above
- 63 Augusta, —
- 64 Grew gray
- 65 Ruby & topaz
- 66 Drive too fast
- 67 Three feet

DOWN

- 1 Location
- 2 Steel, mainly
- 3 Role
- 4 Was scornful

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
24				25								
26	27	28		29			30		31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37			38			39			40			
41		42			43				44			
45				46			47					
48			49			50						
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59	60				61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

4/20/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

FONT	EGGON	ACAD
AVOW	CRUDE	BONA
MEMO	HANDTO	HAND
END	EONS	POLES
EGRET	PER	
CAPERS	CENSOR	
ATLAS	GALAS	VAT
FOUR	MOLAR	WEIR
ELM	REALM	TORSO
LEGEND	RINSED	
HAD	MIRTH	
LABOR	RIDE	APE
UNASSUMING	IDEA	
BELT	SINCE	DOOR
EWES	ADDED	OWNS

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4/20/11

- 38 Train station
- 39 Dine
- 42 Housecoats
- 44 Voting day in the U.S.A.
- 46 Baggage porter
- 47 Small dog with a curled tail
- 49 Smiles broadly
- 50 Put into boxes
- 51 Kermit, for one
- 52 Not taped
- 53 Object
- 54 Trait carrier
- 55 Caesar's robe
- 56 At any time
- 57 Late actor Foxx
- 60 Go quickly

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Wk 6 \$11,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 8 \$9,000 1BR Garden*
Wk 8 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*
Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden
Wk 10, \$9,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden
Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)
Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2 BR Pool*

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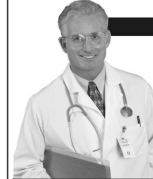
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Activists Save Dogs From Slaughter In China

In China, 500 dogs narrowly
escaped being sold for their
meat after animal lovers rescued
them from a truck transporting
them for slaughter.

The dogs were spotted on a
motorway outside Beijing by a
driver who swerved his car in
front of the truck to block its
path. He then alerted others via
his micro-blog.

Several hundred people
surrounded the truck, demanding the dogs' release. Authorities were powerless to intervene because in China there are no laws against animal cruelty. After a 15-hour standoff, the rescuers ended up securing the release of the dogs only by buying them from the trucking company. The £10,000 bill was footed by an animal rights charity. The dogs are now receiving medical attention before being offered for adoption in Beijing. "More than 90% of them have distemper or parvovirus," said one of the vets treating them. "Some dogs also had other health problems, and were not at all strong. Only the puppies are disease free." Sky News first investigated China's trade in cat and dog meat two years ago. Rescued dogs A growing number of activists are against eating dog meat
At markets in southern China live cats are sold for 70p a pound to local restaurants. By some estimates 10,000 cats are eaten every day. But the dealers are under pressure from animal rights campaigners who want the trade banned. One cat meat trader even threatened to beat a Sky News film crew as they attempted to film his market stall. Cats and dogs have been on the menu for centuries in China. The meat is considered a delicacy and served up in restaurants that specialise in so-called "wild taste". In traditional Chinese medicine, cat meat is said to be good for the bones, while dog flesh is thought to warm the body during the cold winter months. One of the most popular dishes is a stew of cat and snake meat known as "dragon fights the tiger". However, the country's growing number of animal lovers - many of them middle class city-dwellers - say cats and dogs should only be kept as pets.

They claim many of the animals that end up in markets are pets that have been stolen from their owners.

A law to ban the trade in cat and dog meat has long been debated by the Chinese media.



A growing number of activists are against eating dog meat

15-state tornado outbreak deadliest since 2008

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The devastation is stunning homes and lives shattered as the deadliest swarm of twisters in three years battered up to 15 states. Ultimately, this could turn out to be among the top 10 three-day outbreaks for number of tornadoes, though experts can't be sure until all the reports are sorted, said Greg Carbin of the federal Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla.

While tornadoes occur regularly, their power always shocks.

This time it was storms battering their way from Oklahoma to North Carolina, claiming at least 44 lives, almost half of those in North Carolina. It was the deadliest since Feb. 5, 2008, when 57 died in the “Super Tuesday” election day

tornadoes in the Southeast. And that was the highest tornado death toll since 76 died in 1985.

“A major storm system like this is going to happen every few years, usually in April or May,” said Carbin.

While May is the nation's busiest month for twisters, they surge sharply in April, and most early spring tornadoes strike the Southeast and South Central states.

Indeed, the biggest tornado outbreak on record occurred April 3-4, 1974 when 147 confirmed twisters touched down in 13 states, claiming 310 lives in the United States and 8 in Canada.

For about the past 30 years, the United States has averaged 135 tornadoes in April, the highest number being 266 in 1974, according to Jake Crouch of the National Cli-



Doll hangs in a bush at a home in Colerain, N.C. after a tornado ripped through the area.

matic Data Center in Asheville, N.C.

In these latest storms, the National Weather Service is investigating 267 preliminary tornado reports including 97 in North Carolina on Saturday. But many of those will turn out to be duplicates, Carbin said in a telephone interview.

Such a large number of reports has become typical in recent years as more people watch for the storms and call them in. Normally more than half turn out to be duplicates and Carbin estimated that the final count for this series of storms will be around 140. □

BP is looking strong a year later



In the Gulf of Mexico, more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, as a large plume of smoke rises from fires on BP's Deepwater Horizon offshore oil rig.

By **HARRY R. WEBER**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS – It's hard to tell that just a year ago BP was reeling from financial havoc and an American public out for blood.

The oil giant at the center of one of the world's biggest environmental crises is making strong profits again, its stock has largely rebounded, and it is paying dividends to shareholders once more. It is also pursuing new ventures from the Arctic to India. It is even angling to explore again in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico, where it holds more leases than any competitor. "BP has a critical role to play in meeting the world's ever-growing need for energy," BP chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg said at the company's annual meeting in London last week.

While some of this anger

Gulf Coast residents, it is a testament to some deft handling of the crisis by the company, which after some major gaffes early on conducted a housecleaning in its executive ranks, adopted a careful communications strategy and assigned an outsider to handle victims' compensation claims. The company's decision to open its checkbook and pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Gulf communities, help out-of-work rig hands and support Gulf research also contributed to the turnaround. Yet BP is not out of the woods yet.

BP employees could be found criminally negligent for the 206 million gallons of oil the U.S. government says gushed from the company's blown-out well and for the 11 men who died when the Deepwater Horizon rig it was leasing exploded. Hundreds of lawsuits and civil and criminal fines could add billions of dollars to its already staggering liabilities. And the findings of several investigations still under way could further damage its reputation.

BP has estimated that the spill will cost the company at least \$40.9 billion but is hoping to force some of its partners on the doomed rig to assume some of those costs. □



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Santos justifica extradición de Makled a Venezuela

COLOMBIA (AP) - El presidente Juan Manuel Santos aseguró el lunes que si no hubiera autorizado a Caracas la extradición del presunto narcotraficante venezolano Walid Makled habría violado lo que dictó la ley. Makled fue capturado en Colombia en agosto de 2010 y no sólo estaba solicitado en extradición por Venezuela sino también por las autoridades estadounidenses que, a través de una corte de Nueva York, lo requieren por narcotráfico.

Si no lo enviaba a Venezuela “cometía prevaricato”, dijo Santos en una entrevista con la emisora local La FM. “Yo no puedo ir contra lo que la ley me obliga”, agregó.

Santos indicó que la decisión de enviar a Makled a Venezuela y no a Estados Unidos se basó en el concepto de que al decidir sobre una extradición “prima el delito más grave: el homicidio, que es por el que lo pidió Venezuela”.

Según Santos, el embajador de Washington en Bogotá, Michael McKinley, le dijo que su país respeta la decisión del gobierno de Colombia.

Santos aseguró que desde que asumió el gobierno en agosto se han autorizado a Estados Unidos “creo que 110 extradiciones...”

No hay país con el que se tenga una colaboración judicial” más activa que con Estados Unidos. Al ser consultado sobre la información que Makled dice tener sobre los presuntos nexos de algunos

funcionarios del gobierno de Hugo Chávez con la mafia, Santos respondió “que la dé”, pero a renglón seguido advirtió que “estamos tratando con un criminal que está jugando a muchas bandas”.

Makled está detenido en La Picota, una cárcel del sur de Bogotá, a la espera de ser enviado a Venezuela. Según dijo en diálogo telefónico su abogado, Miguel Angel Ramírez, aún estudia la posibilidad de apelar la determinación del gobierno de Santos.

En la misma entrevista, Santos precisó que nunca dijo que en Venezuela ya no había campamentos de las guerrillas de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) y del Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN). Lo que “quise decir (es) que esos campamentos donde estaban ya no están”.

“No sabemos si están en Venezuela o en Colombia”, dijo.

“Es probable” que la guerrilla siga teniendo presencia en Venezuela, agregó. Añadió que con Chávez “quedamos en el compromiso claro y contundente... de no permitir” la presencia de grupos armados ilegales en territorio venezolano. “Si él (Chávez) está colaborando y si él está cumpliendo con los



Presidente Juan Manuel Santos

acuerdos, yo tengo que reconocerlo”, comentó. El 22 de julio Caracas rompió relaciones con el gobierno del entonces presidente Alvaro Uribe (2002-2010) luego de que éste denunciara la presencia de jefes de las FARC y del ELN en territorio venezolano, una acusación que el gobierno de Chávez siempre ha negado. □

Raúl Castro nuevo jefe comunista para reformar a Cuba



CUBA (AP) - El presidente de Cuba, Raúl Castro, asumió el martes la máxima jefatura comunista en lugar de su hermano Fidel, para implementar a toda marcha, con la vieja guardia y los militares, una reforma económica con la que busca salvar el agotado modelo socialista, vigente desde hace medio siglo. Raúl Castro, de 79 años, fue electo primer secretario por los 115 miembros del Comité Central del Partido Comunista de Cuba (PCC), y como su número dos, el vicepresidente y veterano dirigente de “línea dura”, José Ramón Machado, de 80 años, en el cierre de un histórico cónclave de la agrupación. □

(AP Photo/Javier Galeano)

Dominicana despliega personal de socorro por Semana Santa

R E P U B L I C A

DOMINICANA (AP) - Unos 35.000 socorristas, militares y personal médico de República Dominicana estarán listos para atender eventualidades durante Semana Santa, informaron el martes las autoridades.

El director de la Defensa Civil, Luis Luna Paulino, recordó que las muertes violentas y en accidentes de tránsito se incrementa durante Semana Santa. Estadísticamente, unas 60 personas murieron en accidentes de tránsito, ahogadas o por intoxicación alcohólica, durante cada asueto de esta temporada en

los últimos 10 años.

En 2009 el número se redujó a 56 decesos y el año pasado a 32, la cifra más baja de la última década, según las estadísticas del Centro de Operaciones de Emergencias (COE).

El director del COE, Juan Manuel Méndez, anunció el martes que para prevenir accidentes y para proveer ayuda en las emergencias, las carreteras, playas y ríos estarán vigiladas por 35.000 socorristas, médicos, policías y militares.

Adicionalmente, el ministerio de Turismo prohibió el uso de vehículos acuáticos de motor,

como jet ski y lanchas, en las cercanías de las playas a fin de evitar accidentes.

El ministro de Salud, Bautista Rojas, recomendó a los viajeros no tomar baños en ríos, cañadas y lagunas como una forma de prevenir la propagación de enfermedades infectocontagiosas y el cólera. Las autoridades sanitarias descubrieron a finales del año pasado que varios acueductos y al menos dos ríos cerca de la frontera con Haití estaban contaminados con la bacteria que provoca el cólera, que ha causado siete muertes en República Dominicana desde fines de octubre. □

China elogia planes de reformas económicas en Cuba

CHINA (AP) - China elogió el martes la decisión del Partido Comunista de Cuba de aprobar cambios económicos y reformas sociales en la isla.

El portavoz del ministerio de relaciones exteriores de China, Hong Lei, dijo el martes que las decisiones realizadas durante el Sexto Partido del Congreso de Cuba, con toda

seguridad tendrán un “impacto profundo y de largo alcance” en el país.

Cuba aprobó el lunes cientos de propuestas económicas, inclusive una de legalizar la compra y venta de propiedad privada. China, dirigido por el Partido Comunista, es un importante aliado comercial de Cuba desde el desmantelamiento del bloque soviético. □

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